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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

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

Almighty God of the universe, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We pray for the gift of wisdom to all with great responsibility in this House for the leadership of our Nation.

As the Members disperse to their various districts and our Nation enters a week which celebrates Memorial Day, may we all retreat from the busyness of life to remember our citizen ancestors who served our Nation in the armed services.

Grant that their sacrifice of self, and for so many, of life, would inspire all of America's citizens to step forward, in whatever their path of life, to make a positive contribution to the strength of our democracy.

Bless us this day and every day, and may all that is done within these hallowed halls be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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. Will the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. POMPEO) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. POMPEO 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

AMERICA'S VETERANS DESERVE QUALITY HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. POMPEO. Mr. Speaker, what is taking place today in America's Veterans Administration may be the most egregious case of friendly fire in the history of the United States of America.

This harm to our veterans from our team is coming not from firearms, but from an enormous bureaucracy that is incapable of dealing with providing health care to our Nation's warriors. It is unacceptable.

Words alone, Mr. President, I have to say, are not enough. We need action, not anger. We need results. We need delivery of health care to our warriors now, and whether that health care comes from inside the Veterans Administration or from outside, we need to get folks off our waiting lists, out of lines, and in to see doctors and folks who are prepared to take care of them.

The sacrifices these men and women made are enormous. As a veteran, I certainly understand that.

As a Member of Congress, I understand that it is my responsibility to make sure we fix this challenge, this bureaucratic mess that our Nation has put these veterans in now for years and years.

As we approach Memorial Day, we need to all take this seriously. I would urge this House to continue to work to perform its function of oversight and to correct this most egregious situation and get these veterans the care that they need.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. AMODEI). Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

BRING BACK OUR GIRLS

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

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it is with great concern for the safety of over 200 kidnapped Nigerian girls that I urge my colleagues to vote for the National Defense Authorization Act.

This bill includes an en bloc amendment I offered requiring the Department of Defense, in consultation with the Department of State, to report on the efforts to assist in the search and rescue of the young women who were abducted in Nigeria last month.

There is more that our government can do to address the threat that Boko Haram poses to international security. By Congress knowing more about this terrorist group, their movements, the safety of the girls, and what the U.S. and Nigerian Governments can do to protect these girls and others like them, we will be in a better position to end Boko Haram's reign of terror.

Families weep in Nigeria. The global community holds vigil for these children.

I thank the chairman for including my amendment in the en bloc package and urge my colleagues to vote to help ''bring back our girls.''

In regard to Memorial Day, I want to thank those who gave up their tomorrow, so we could have today.

JOB WELL DONE

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

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Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, today we will take up the NSA reform bill.

I rise today to thank Chairman ROGERS, Chairman GOODLATTE, Mr. CONYERS, and all, in a bipartisan way, who have come to address this very critical reform at a time when America still is under the threat of terrorism.

There is another group of people that I think it is appropriate to thank today, and that is the tens of thousands of Federal employees who work for these agencies that go out there every single day to help make America secure and Americans secure elsewhere around the world.

Job well done.

P5+1 NEGOTIATIONS

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

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, the United States is currently in negotiations with our P5+1 partners and Iran over the fate of Tehran's illicit nuclear program. I support the President's efforts to negotiate an agreement to end Iran's nuclear weapons question, and I am hopeful, but I am also concerned, that this goal may or may not be achieved.

As the initial 6-month period for negotiations comes to an end on July 20 and as we debate the NDAA, it is crucial for Congress to speak out on what a good deal with Iran would look like.

Congress must insist that final agreement ensures that Tehran has no pathway to a nuclear weapon. As the President and Secretary Kerry have repeatedly said, no deal is better than a bad deal.

Any agreement must include an inspection and verification regime that provides for anytime, anywhere inspections to ensure that Iran is complying with a deal.

OUR VETERANS DESERVE THE BEST MEDICAL TREATMENT

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, the number of veterans has declined by several millions in recent years, due to deaths and decreases in the numbers of our military, yet the problems in the VA and complaints by veterans about poor treatment and long delays have grown by leaps and bounds.

It is definitely not a money problem because no department or agency has received the megabillions and high percentage increases that the Congress has given to the VA; yet, despite years of criticism for Members of Congress and the media, the problems have grown worse.

The only effective solution is competition. I said in a speech to a veterans group many years ago that eligible veterans should be given a card and allowed to go to any hospital they choose, including those considered to be the best in the Nation. In this way, VA hospitals would be forced to provide better service, or Congress could and should close the ones with rapidly declining and/or very low occupancy rates.

Mr. Speaker, our veterans deserve the very best medical treatment possible.

UNITED STATES AIR FORCES ESCAPE AND EVASION SOCIETY

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

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in advance of Memorial Day weekend, to recognize the brave men and women of the U.S. Air Forces Escape and Evasion Society, or AFEES, whose bravery and ingenuity in the face of danger is surpassed only by their dedication to this country.

Formed in 1964, AFEES is an organization created by aircrew members who evaded capture by enemy forces during foreign wars, with the assistance of resistance organizations and patriotic nationals of foreign countries. This organization includes downed aircrew members and people who directly aided them in escape and evasion.

In recognition of these heroic efforts, I introduced the U.S. Air Forces Escape and Evasion Society Recognition Act of 2014 this week to award this deserving organization the Congressional Gold Medal. Awarding this medal will serve to recognize a group of veterans whose names are synonymous with service, selflessness, and fortitude.

I invite every Member of this Chamber to join me in cosponsoring this legislation.

NIGERIA AND BOKO HARAM

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

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, last night, the House passed an amendment encouraging our regional partners and allies to develop an interagency strategy to counter the vicious terror attacks perpetrated by Boko Haram.

Boko Haram is the terrorist group that recently kidnapped over 300 innocent young Nigerian girls.

Mr. Speaker, it is impossible for any of us to imagine the fear and heartbreak these children and their families are experiencing.

For some time, it has been known that these groups have extensive links between Boko Haram and al Qaeda affiliates; yet, despite my multiple pleas 2 years ago to former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, she would not even consider acknowledging Boko Haram's religious ideology and list them as a foreign terrorist organization.

Consequently, Boko Haram is stronger today than ever before. This Islamist group continues their rampage of terror because the administration—this administration—as they have so many times before, refused to look at the facts as they were.

I hope now we will face Boko Haram for the terrorist group that it is and defeat it and, somehow, bring these innocent young girls home.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

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

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the National Defense Authorization Act, which we will vote on today. The act supports a strong national defense and gives our men and women in uniform the tools and resources that they need to do the often-dangerous jobs that we ask them to take on.

Southern Arizona is home to Fort Huachuca, the 162nd Wing of the Air National Guard, and a strong defense industry, all of which are vital to our Nation's security.

We are also the proud home of Davis-Monthan Air Force Base and the A–10 Thunderbolt. This heavily armed plane we call the Warthog may be ugly, but it flies slow and low and provides close air support and protection to our troops like no other aircraft we have today.

This bill includes a provision I offered with my Republican colleagues, Representatives HARTZLER and SCOTT, to keep the A–10 flying. It passed with overwhelming bipartisan support in the Armed Services Committee.

Today, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to pass this critical legislation for our servicemembers and their families and the security of our Nation.

THE NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY AND SNOOPING ON AMERICA

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the NSA is out of control. It seizes massive amounts of data on Americans without their consent, without their knowledge. This action violates the Fourth Amendment and the PATRIOT Act.

The USA FREEDOM Act is supposed to halt these literally unwarranted intrusions. The bill, in which I am a cosponsor, passed the Judiciary Committee unanimously.

However, this bill that deals with secret surveillance and mischief by the NSA was recently changed at the Rules Committee. These changes appear to allow multiple interpretations as to what the NSA can and cannot do. The bill now confuses what it intended to make clear. It seems we are back where we started.

The NSA has shown it will misinterpret the law in a manner most favorable to the seizure by the NSA, seizure of information without a warrant.

These new changes, unfortunately, may not adequately solve the problems of spying, snooping, and surveillance by the NSA on Americans.

And that's just the way it is.

NATIONAL MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH

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

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Military Appreciation Month and to honor the service and sacrifice of the men and women of our military.

I am proud to represent countless inspiring veterans who have served our country and continue to serve in our communities—veterans like Carlos Cruz, who served in the Army during Vietnam and regularly volunteers with disabled veterans whenever he is able; Dr. Anthony Atwood, who served in the Navy for over 20 years and, today, works to preserve the history of Miami veterans as executive director of the Miami Military Museum and Memorial; Clifton Riley, an Army veteran who served during Desert Storm and started his own business, where he strives to hire veterans.

Carlos, Anthony, and Clifton are just three examples of the many veterans who remind us of the responsibility to uphold promises we made to our veterans as they have upheld their promises to us.

□ 0915

USA FREEDOM ACT

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 590, I call up the bill (H.R. 3361) to reform the authorities of the Federal Government to require the production of certain business records, conduct electronic surveillance, use pen registers and trap and trace devices, and use other forms of information gathering for foreign intelligence, counterterrorism, and criminal purposes, and for other purposes, as amended, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 590, in lieu of the amendments in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence printed in the bill, the amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in part B of House Report 113–460 is adopted, and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 3361

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''USA FREEDOM Act''.

(b) Table of Contents.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. Amendments to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978.

TITLE I—FISA BUSINESS RECORDS REFORMS

Sec. 101. Additional requirements for call detail records.
Sec. 102. Emergency authority.
Sec. 103. Prohibition on bulk collection of tangible things.
Sec. 104. Judicial review of minimization procedures for the production of tangible things.
Sec. 105. Liability protection.
Sec. 106. Compensation for assistance.
Sec. 107. Definitions.
Sec. 108. Inspector general reports on business records orders.
Sec. 109. Effective date.
Sec. 110. Rule of construction.

TITLE II—FISA PEN REGISTER AND TRAP AND TRACE DEVICE REFORM

Sec. 201. Prohibition on bulk collection.
Sec. 202. Privacy procedures.

TITLE III—FISA ACQUISITIONS TARGETING PERSONS OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES REFORMS

Sec. 301. Minimization procedures.
Sec. 302. Limits on use of unlawfully obtained information.

TITLE IV—FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE COURT REFORMS

Sec. 401. Appointment of amicus curiae.
Sec. 402. Declassification of decisions, orders, and opinions.

TITLE V—NATIONAL SECURITY LETTER REFORM

Sec. 501. Prohibition on bulk collection.

TITLE VI—FISA TRANSPARENCY AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Sec. 601. Additional reporting on orders requiring production of business records.
Sec. 602. Business records compliance reports to Congress.
Sec. 603. Annual reports by the Government on orders entered.
Sec. 604. Public reporting by persons subject to FISA orders.
Sec. 605. Reporting requirements for decisions of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court.
Sec. 606. Submission of reports under FISA.

TITLE VII—SUNSETS

Sec. 701. Sunsets.

SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO THE FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE ACT OF 1978.

Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or a repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.).

TITLE I—FISA BUSINESS RECORDS REFORMS

SEC. 101. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR CALL DETAIL RECORDS.

(a) APPLICATION.—Section 501(b)(2) (50 U.S.C. 1861(b)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking ''a statement'' and inserting ''in the case of an application other than an application described in subparagraph (C) (including an application for the production of call detail records other than in the manner described in subparagraph (C)), a statement''; and

(B) in clause (iii), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a semicolon;

(2) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as subparagraphs (B) and (D), respectively; and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (B) (as so redesignated) the following new subparagraph:

''(C) in the case of an application for the production on a daily basis of call detail records created before, on, or after the date of the application relating to an authorized investigation (other than a threat assessment) conducted in accordance with subsection (a)(2) to protect against international terrorism, a statement of facts showing that—

''(i) there are reasonable grounds to believe that the call detail records sought to be produced based on the specific selection term required under subparagraph (A) are relevant to such investigation; and

''(ii) there are facts giving rise to a reasonable, articulable suspicion that such specific selection term is associated with a foreign power or an agent of a foreign power; and''.

(b) ORDER.—Section 501(c)(2) (50 U.S.C. 1861(c)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (D), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in subparagraph (E), by striking the period and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(F) in the case of an application described in subsection (b)(2)(C), shall—

''(i) authorize the production on a daily basis of call detail records for a period not to exceed 180 days;

''(ii) provide that an order for such production may be extended upon application under subsection (b) and the judicial finding under paragraph (1);

''(iii) provide that the Government may require the prompt production of call detail records—

''(I) using the specific selection term that satisfies the standard required under subsection (b)(2)(C)(ii) as the basis for production; and

''(II) using call detail records with a direct connection to such specific selection term as the basis for production of a second set of call detail records;

''(iv) provide that, when produced, such records be in a form that will be useful to the Government;

''(v) direct each person the Government directs to produce call detail records under the order to furnish the Government forthwith all information, facilities, or technical assistance necessary to accomplish the production in such a manner as will protect the secrecy of the production and produce a minimum of interference with the services that such person is providing to each subject of the production; and

''(vi) direct the Government to—

''(I) adopt minimization procedures that require the prompt destruction of all call detail records produced under the order that the Government determines are not foreign intelligence information; and

''(II) destroy all call detail records produced under the order as prescribed by such procedures.''.

SEC. 102. EMERGENCY AUTHORITY.

(a) AUTHORITY.—Section 501 (50 U.S.C. 1861) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(i) EMERGENCY AUTHORITY FOR PRODUCTION OF TANGIBLE THINGS.—

''(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the Attorney General may require the emergency production of tangible things if the Attorney General—

''(A) reasonably determines that an emergency situation requires the production of tangible things before an order authorizing such production can with due diligence be obtained;

''(B) reasonably determines that the factual basis for the issuance of an order under this section to approve such production of tangible things exists;

''(C) informs, either personally or through a designee, a judge having jurisdiction under this section at the time the Attorney General requires the emergency production of tangible things that the decision has been made to employ the authority under this subsection; and

''(D) makes an application in accordance with this section to a judge having jurisdiction under this section as soon as practicable, but not later than 7 days after the Attorney General requires the emergency production of tangible things under this subsection.

''(2) If the Attorney General authorizes the emergency production of tangible things under paragraph (1), the Attorney General shall require that the minimization procedures required by this section for the issuance of a judicial order be followed.

''(3) In the absence of a judicial order approving the production of tangible things under this subsection, the production shall terminate when the information sought is obtained, when the application for the order is denied, or after the expiration of 7 days from the time the Attorney General begins requiring the emergency production of such tangible things, whichever is earliest.

''(4) A denial of the application made under this subsection may be reviewed as provided in section 103.

''(5) If such application for approval is denied, or in any other case where the production of tangible things is terminated and no order is issued approving the production, no information obtained or evidence derived from such production shall be received in evidence or otherwise disclosed in any trial, hearing, or other proceeding in or before any court, grand jury, department, office, agency, regulatory body, legislative committee, or other authority of the United States, a State, or political subdivision thereof, and no information concerning any United States person acquired from such production shall subsequently be used or disclosed in any other manner by Federal officers or employees without the consent of such person, except with the approval of the Attorney General if the information indicates a threat of death or serious bodily harm to any person.

''(6) The Attorney General shall assess compliance with the requirements of paragraph (5).''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 501(d) (50 U.S.C. 1861(d)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''pursuant to an order'' and inserting ''pursuant to an order issued or an emergency production required'';

(B) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''such order'' and inserting ''such order or such emergency production''; and

(C) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''the order'' and inserting ''the order or the emergency production''; and

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''an order'' and inserting ''an order or emergency production''; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''an order'' and inserting ''an order or emergency production''.

SEC. 103. PROHIBITION ON BULK COLLECTION OF TANGIBLE THINGS.

(a) APPLICATION.—Section 501(b)(2) (50 U.S.C. 1861(b)(2)), as amended by section 101(a) of this Act, is further amended by inserting before subparagraph (B), as redesignated by such section 101(a) of this Act, the following new subparagraph:

''(A) a specific selection term to be used as the basis for the production of the tangible things sought;''.

(b) ORDER.—Section 501(c) (50 U.S.C. 1861(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking the semicolon and inserting '', including each specific selection term to be used as the basis for the production;''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(3) No order issued under this subsection may authorize the collection of tangible things without the use of a specific selection term that meets the requirements of subsection (b)(2).''.

SEC. 104. JUDICIAL REVIEW OF MINIMIZATION PROCEDURES FOR THE PRODUCTION OF TANGIBLE THINGS.

Section 501(c)(1) (50 U.S.C. 1861(c)(1)) is amended by inserting after ''subsections (a) and (b)'' the following: ''and that the minimization procedures submitted in accordance with subsection (b)(2)(D) meet the definition of minimization procedures under subsection (g)''.

SEC. 105. LIABILITY PROTECTION.

Section 501(e) (50 U.S.C. 1861(e)) is amended to read as follows:

''(e)(1) No cause of action shall lie in any court against a person who—

''(A) produces tangible things or provides information, facilities, or technical assistance pursuant to an order issued or an emergency production required under this section; or

''(B) otherwise provides technical assistance to the Government under this section or to implement the amendments made to this section by the USA FREEDOM Act.

''(2) A production or provision of information, facilities, or technical assistance described in paragraph (1) shall not be deemed to constitute a waiver of any privilege in any other proceeding or context.''.

SEC. 106. COMPENSATION FOR ASSISTANCE.

Section 501 (50 U.S.C. 1861), as amended by section 102 of this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(j) COMPENSATION.—The Government shall compensate a person for reasonable expenses incurred for—

''(1) producing tangible things or providing information, facilities, or assistance in accordance with an order issued with respect to an application described in subsection (b)(2)(C) or an emergency production under subsection (i) that, to comply with subsection (i)(1)(D), requires an application described in subsection (b)(2)(C); or

''(2) otherwise providing technical assistance to the Government under this section or to implement the amendments made to this section by the USA FREEDOM Act.''.

SEC. 107. DEFINITIONS.

Section 501 (50 U.S.C. 1861), as amended by section 106 of this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(k) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) CALL DETAIL RECORD.—The term 'call detail record'—

''(A) means session identifying information (including originating or terminating telephone number, International Mobile Subscriber Identity number, or International Mobile Station Equipment Identity number), a telephone calling card number, or the time or duration of a call; and

''(B) does not include—

''(i) the contents of any communication (as defined in section 2510(8) of title 18, United States Code);

''(ii) the name, address, or financial information of a subscriber or customer; or

''(iii) cell site location information.

''(2) SPECIFIC SELECTION TERM.—The term 'specific selection term' means a discrete term, such as a term specifically identifying a person, entity, account, address, or device, used by the Government to limit the scope of the information or tangible things sought pursuant to the statute authorizing the provision of such information or tangible things to the Government.''.

SEC. 108. INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORTS ON BUSINESS RECORDS ORDERS.

Section 106A of the USA PATRIOT Improvement and Reauthorization Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–177; 120 Stat. 200) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting ''and calendar years 2012 through 2014'' after ''2006'';

(B) by striking paragraphs (2) and (3);

(C) by redesignating paragraphs (4) and (5) as paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively; and

(D) in paragraph (3) (as so redesignated)—

(i) by striking subparagraph (C) and inserting the following new subparagraph:

''(C) with respect to calendar years 2012 through 2014, an examination of the minimization procedures used in relation to orders under section 501 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1861) and whether the minimization procedures adequately protect the constitutional rights of United States persons;''; and

(ii) in subparagraph (D), by striking ''(as such term is defined in section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 401a(4)))'';

(2) in subsection (c), by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(3) CALENDAR YEARS 2012 THROUGH 2014.—Not later than December 31, 2015, the Inspector General of the Department of Justice shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives a report containing the results of the audit conducted under subsection (a) for calendar years 2012 through 2014.'';

(3) by redesignating subsections (d) and (e) as subsections (e) and (f), respectively;

(4) by inserting after subsection (c) the following new subsection:

''(d) INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—For the period beginning on January 1, 2012, and ending on December 31, 2014, the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community shall assess—

''(A) the importance of the information acquired under title V of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1861 et seq.) to the activities of the intelligence community;

''(B) the manner in which that information was collected, retained, analyzed, and disseminated by the intelligence community;

''(C) the minimization procedures used by elements of the intelligence community under such title and whether the minimization procedures adequately protect the constitutional rights of United States persons; and

''(D) any minimization procedures proposed by an element of the intelligence community under such title that were modified or denied by the court established under section 103(a) of such Act (50 U.S.C. 1803(a)).

''(2) SUBMISSION DATE FOR ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the Inspector General of the Department of Justice submits the report required under subsection (c)(3), the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives a report containing the results of the assessment for calendar years 2012 through 2014.'';

(5) in subsection (e), as redesignated by paragraph (3)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking ''a report under subsection (c)(1) or (c)(2)'' and inserting ''any report under subsection (c) or (d)''; and

(ii) by striking ''Inspector General of the Department of Justice'' and inserting ''Inspector General of the Department of Justice, the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community, and any Inspector General of an element of the intelligence community that prepares a report to assist the Inspector General of the Department of Justice or the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community in complying with the requirements of this section''; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking ''the reports submitted under subsections (c)(1) and

(c)(2)'' and inserting ''any report submitted under subsection (c) or (d)'';

(6) in subsection (f), as redesignated by paragraph (3)—

(A) by striking ''The reports submitted under subsections (c)(1) and (c)(2)'' and inserting ''Each report submitted under subsection (c)''; and

(B) by striking ''subsection (d)(2)'' and inserting ''subsection (e)(2)''; and

(7) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.—The term 'intelligence community' has the meaning given that term in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003).

''(2) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term 'United States person' has the meaning given that term in section 101 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1801).''.

SEC. 109. EFFECTIVE DATE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by sections 101 through 103 shall take effect on the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to alter or eliminate the authority of the Government to obtain an order under title V of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1861 et seq.) as in effect prior to the effective date described in subsection (a) during the period ending on such effective date.

SEC. 110. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this Act shall be construed to authorize the production of the contents (as such term is defined in section 2510(8) of title 18, United States Code) of any electronic communication from an electronic communication service provider (as such term is defined in section 701(b)(4) of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1881(b)(4)) under title V of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1861 et seq.).

TITLE II—FISA PEN REGISTER AND TRAP AND TRACE DEVICE REFORM

SEC. 201. PROHIBITION ON BULK COLLECTION.

(a) PROHIBITION.—Section 402(c) (50 U.S.C. 1842(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking the period and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(3) a specific selection term to be used as the basis for selecting the telephone line or other facility to which the pen register or trap and trace device is to be attached or applied; and''.

(b) DEFINITION.—Section 401 (50 U.S.C. 1841) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(4) The term 'specific selection term' has the meaning given the term in section 501.''.

SEC. 202. PRIVACY PROCEDURES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 402 (50 U.S.C. 1842) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(h) The Attorney General shall ensure that appropriate policies and procedures are in place to safeguard nonpublicly available information concerning United States persons that is collected through the use of a pen register or trap and trace device installed under this section. Such policies and procedures shall, to the maximum extent practicable and consistent with the need to protect national security, include protections for the collection, retention, and use of information concerning United States persons.''.

(b) EMERGENCY AUTHORITY.—Section 403 (50 U.S.C. 1843) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(d) Information collected through the use of a pen register or trap and device installed under this section shall be subject to the policies and procedures required under section 402(h).''.

TITLE III—FISA ACQUISITIONS TARGETING PERSONS OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES REFORMS

SEC. 301. MINIMIZATION PROCEDURES.

Section 702(e)(1) (50 U.S.C. 1881a(e)(1)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''that meet'' and inserting the following: ''that—

''(A) meet'';

(2) in subparagraph (A) (as designated by paragraph (1) of this section), by striking the period and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(B) consistent with such definition—

''(i) minimize the acquisition, and prohibit the retention and dissemination, of any communication as to which the sender and all intended recipients are determined to be located in the United States at the time of acquisition, consistent with the need of the United States to obtain, produce, and disseminate foreign intelligence information; and

''(ii) prohibit the use of any discrete communication that is not to, from, or about the target of an acquisition and is to or from an identifiable United States person or a person reasonably believed to be located in the United States, except to protect against an immediate threat to human life.''.

SEC. 302. LIMITS ON USE OF UNLAWFULLY OBTAINED INFORMATION.

Section 702(i)(3) (50 U.S.C. 1881a(i)(3)) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(D) LIMITATION ON USE OF INFORMATION.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), to the extent the Court orders a correction of a deficiency in a certification or procedures under subparagraph (B), no information obtained or evidence derived pursuant to the part of the certification or procedures that has been identified by the Court as deficient concerning any United States person shall be received in evidence or otherwise disclosed in any trial, hearing, or other proceeding in or before any court, grand jury, department, office, agency, regulatory body, legislative committee, or other authority of the United States, a State, or political subdivision thereof, and no information concerning any United States person acquired pursuant to such part of such certification shall subsequently be used or disclosed in any other manner by Federal officers or employees without the consent of the United States person, except with the approval of the Attorney General if the information indicates a threat of death or serious bodily harm to any person.

''(ii) EXCEPTION.—If the Government corrects any deficiency identified by the order of the Court under subparagraph (B), the Court may permit the use or disclosure of information obtained before the date of the correction under such minimization procedures as the Court shall establish for purposes of this clause.''.

TITLE IV—FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE COURT REFORMS

SEC. 401. APPOINTMENT OF AMICUS CURIAE.

Section 103 (50 U.S.C. 1803) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(i) AMICUS CURIAE.—

''(1) AUTHORIZATION.—A court established under subsection (a) or (b), consistent with the requirement of subsection (c) and any other statutory requirement that the court act expeditiously or within a stated time—

''(A) shall appoint an individual to serve as amicus curiae to assist such court in the consideration of any application for an order or review that, in the opinion of the court, presents a novel or significant interpretation of the law, unless the court issues a written finding that such appointment is not appropriate; and

''(B) may appoint an individual to serve as amicus curiae in any other instance as such court deems appropriate.

''(2) DESIGNATION.—The presiding judges of the courts established under subsections (a) and (b) shall jointly designate not less than 5 individuals to be eligible to serve as amicus curiae. Such individuals shall be persons who possess expertise in privacy and civil liberties, intelligence collection, telecommunications, or any other area that may lend legal or technical expertise to the courts and who have been determined by appropriate executive branch officials to be eligible for access to classified information.

''(3) DUTIES.—An individual appointed to serve as amicus curiae under paragraph (1) shall carry out the duties assigned by the appointing court. Such court may authorize the individual appointed to serve as amicus curiae to review any application, certification, petition, motion, or other submission that the court determines is relevant to the duties assigned by the court.

''(4) NOTIFICATION.—The presiding judges of the courts established under subsections (a) and (b) shall notify the Attorney General of each exercise of the authority to appoint an individual to serve as amicus curiae under paragraph (1).

''(5) ASSISTANCE.—A court established under subsection (a) or (b) may request and receive (including on a non-reimbursable basis) the assistance of the executive branch in the implementation of this subsection.

''(6) ADMINISTRATION.—A court established under subsection (a) or (b) may provide for the designation, appointment, removal, training, or other support for an individual appointed to serve as amicus curiae under paragraph (1) in a manner that is not inconsistent with this subsection.''.

SEC. 402. DECLASSIFICATION OF DECISIONS, ORDERS, AND OPINIONS.

(a) DECLASSIFICATION.—Title VI (50 U.S.C. 1871 et seq.) is amended—

*(1) in the heading, by striking ''**REPORTING REQUIREMENT**'' and inserting ''**OVERSIGHT**''; and*

(2) by adding at the end the following new section:

''SEC. 602. DECLASSIFICATION OF SIGNIFICANT DECISIONS, ORDERS, AND OPINIONS.

''(a) DECLASSIFICATION REQUIRED.—Subject to subsection (b), the Director of National Intelligence, in consultation with the Attorney General, shall conduct a declassification review of each decision, order, or opinion issued by the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court or the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court of Review (as defined in section 601(e)) that includes a significant construction or interpretation of any provision of this Act, including a construction or interpretation of the term 'specific selection term', and, consistent with that review, make publicly available to the greatest extent practicable each such decision, order, or opinion.

''(b) REDACTED FORM.—The Director of National Intelligence, in consultation with the Attorney General, may satisfy the requirement under subsection (a) to make a decision, order, or opinion described in such subsection publicly available to the greatest extent practicable by making such decision, order, or opinion publicly available in redacted form.

''(c) NATIONAL SECURITY WAIVER.—The Director of National Intelligence, in consultation with the Attorney General, may waive the requirement to declassify and make publicly available a particular decision, order, or opinion under subsection (a) if—

''(1) the Director of National Intelligence, in consultation with the Attorney General, determines that a waiver of such requirement is necessary to protect the national security of the United States or properly classified intelligence sources or methods; and

''(2) the Director of National Intelligence makes publicly available an unclassified statement prepared by the Attorney General, in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence—

''(A) summarizing the significant construction or interpretation of a provision under this Act; and

''(B) that specifies that the statement has been prepared by the Attorney General and constitutes no part of the opinion of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court or the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court of Review.''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENTS.—The table of contents in the first section is amended—

(1) by striking the item relating to title VI and inserting the following new item:

''TITLE VI—OVERSIGHT''; and

(2) by inserting after the item relating to section 601 the following new item:

''Sec. 602. Declassification of significant decisions, orders, and opinions.''.

TITLE V—NATIONAL SECURITY LETTER REFORM

SEC. 501. PROHIBITION ON BULK COLLECTION.

(a) COUNTERINTELLIGENCE ACCESS TO TELEPHONE TOLL AND TRANSACTIONAL RECORDS.—Section 2709(b) of title 18, United States Code, is amended in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking ''may'' and inserting ''may, using a specific selection term as the basis for a request''.

(b) ACCESS TO FINANCIAL RECORDS FOR CERTAIN INTELLIGENCE AND PROTECTIVE PURPOSES.—Section 1114(a)(2) of the Right to Financial Privacy Act of 1978 (12 U.S.C. 3414(a)(2)) is amended by striking the period and inserting ''and a specific selection term to be used as the basis for the production and disclosure of financial records.''.

(c) DISCLOSURES TO FBI OF CERTAIN CONSUMER RECORDS FOR COUNTERINTELLIGENCE PURPOSES.—Section 626(a) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681u(a)) is amended by striking ''that information,'' and inserting ''that information that includes a specific selection term to be used as the basis for the production of that information,''.

(d) DISCLOSURES TO GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES FOR COUNTERTERRORISM PURPOSES OF CONSUMER REPORTS.—Section 627(a) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681v(a)) is amended by striking ''analysis.'' and inserting ''analysis and a specific selection term to be used as the basis for the production of such information.''.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—

(1) COUNTERINTELLIGENCE ACCESS TO TELEPHONE TOLL AND TRANSACTIONAL RECORDS.—Section 2709 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(g) SPECIFIC SELECTION TERM DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'specific selection term' has the meaning given the term in section 501 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1861).''.

(2) ACCESS TO FINANCIAL RECORDS FOR CERTAIN INTELLIGENCE AND PROTECTIVE PURPOSES.—Section 1114 of the Right to Financial Privacy Act of 1978 (12 U.S.C. 3414) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(e) In this section, the term 'specific selection term' has the meaning given the term in section 501 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1861).''.

(3) DISCLOSURES TO FBI OF CERTAIN CONSUMER RECORDS FOR COUNTERINTELLIGENCE PURPOSES.—Section 626 of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681u) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(n) SPECIFIC SELECTION TERM DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'specific selection term' has the meaning given the term in section 501 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1861).''.

(4) DISCLOSURES TO GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES FOR COUNTERTERRORISM PURPOSES OF CONSUMER REPORTS.—Section 627 of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681v) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(g) SPECIFIC SELECTION TERM DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'specific selection term' has the meaning given the term in section 501 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1861).''.

TITLE VI—FISA TRANSPARENCY AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

SEC. 601. ADDITIONAL REPORTING ON ORDERS REQUIRING PRODUCTION OF BUSINESS RECORDS.

Section 502(b) (50 U.S.C. 1862(b)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) as paragraphs (5), (6), and (7), respectively; and

(2) by inserting before paragraph (5) (as so redesignated) the following new paragraphs:

''(1) the total number of applications described in section 501(b)(2)(B) made for orders approving requests for the production of tangible things;

''(2) the total number of such orders either granted, modified, or denied;

''(3) the total number of applications described in section 501(b)(2)(C) made for orders approving requests for the production of call detail records;

''(4) the total number of such orders either granted, modified, or denied;''.

SEC. 602. BUSINESS RECORDS COMPLIANCE REPORTS TO CONGRESS.

Section 502(b) (50 U.S.C. 1862(b)), as amended by section 601 of this Act, is further amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (7) as paragraphs (2) through (8), respectively; and

(2) by inserting before paragraph (2) (as so redesignated) the following new paragraph:

''(1) a summary of all compliance reviews conducted by the Federal Government of the production of tangible things under section 501;''.

SEC. 603. ANNUAL REPORTS BY THE GOVERNMENT ON ORDERS ENTERED.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title VI (50 U.S.C. 1871 et seq.), as amended by section 402 of this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''SEC. 603. ANNUAL REPORT ON ORDERS ENTERED.

''(a) REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES COURTS.—The Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts shall annually submit to the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Select Committee on Intelligence and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and, subject to a declassification review by the Attorney General and Director of National Intelligence, make publicly available on an Internet website—

''(1) the number of orders entered under each of sections 105, 304, 402, 501, 702, 703, and 704;

''(2) the number of orders modified under each of those sections;

''(3) the number of orders denied under each of those sections; and

''(4) the number of appointments of an individual to serve as amicus curiae under section 103, including the name of each individual appointed to serve as amicus curiae.

''(b) REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.—The Director of National Intelligence shall annually make publicly available a report that identifies, for the preceding 12-month period—

''(1) the total number of orders issued pursuant titles I and III and sections 703 and 704 and the estimated number of targets affected by such orders;

''(2) the total number of orders issued pursuant to section 702 and the estimated number of targets affected by such orders;

''(3) the total number of orders issued pursuant to title IV and the estimated number of targets affected by such orders;

''(4) the total number of orders issued pursuant to applications made under section 501(b)(2)(B) and the estimated number of targets affected by such orders;

''(5) the total number of orders issued pursuant to applications made under section 501(b)(2)(C) and the estimated number of targets affected by such orders; and

''(6) the total number of national Security letters issued and the number of requests for information contained within such national security letters.

''(c) NATIONAL SECURITY LETTER DEFINED.—The term 'national security letter' means any of the following provisions:

''(1) Section 2709 of title 18, United States Code.

''(2) Section 1114(a)(5)(A) of the Right to Financial Privacy Act of 1978 (12 U.S.C. 3414(a)(5)(A)).

''(3) Subsection (a) or (b) of section 626 of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681u(a), 1681u(b)).

''(4) Section 627(a) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681v(a)).''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in the first section, as amended by section 402 of this Act, is further amended by inserting after the item relating to section 602, as added by such section 402, the following new item:

''Sec. 603. Annual report on orders entered.''.

SEC. 604. PUBLIC REPORTING BY PERSONS SUBJECT TO FISA ORDERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title VI (50 U.S.C. 1871 et seq.), as amended by section 603 of this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''SEC. 604. PUBLIC REPORTING BY PERSONS SUBJECT TO ORDERS.

''(a) REPORTING.—A person may semiannually publicly report the following information with respect to the preceding half year using one of the following structures:

''(1) Subject to subsection (b), a report that aggregates the number of orders or national security letters the person was required to comply with in the following separate categories:

''(A) The number of national security letters received, reported in bands of 1000 starting with 0-999.

''(B) The number of customer accounts affected by national security letters, reported in bands of 1000 starting with 0-999.

''(C) The number of orders under this Act for content, reported in bands of 1000 starting with 0-999.

''(D) With respect to content orders under this Act, in bands of 1000 starting with 0-999, the number of customer accounts affected under orders under title I;

''(E) The number of orders under this Act for non-content, reported in bands of 1000 starting with 0-999.

''(F) With respect to non-content orders under this Act, in bands of 1000 starting with 0-999, the number of customer accounts affected under orders under—

''(i) title IV;

''(ii) title V with respect to applications described in section 501(b)(2)(B); and

''(iii) title V with respect to applications described in section 501(b)(2)(C).

''(2) A report that aggregates the number of orders, directives, or national security letters the person was required to comply with in the following separate categories:

''(A) The total number of all national security process received, including all national security letters and orders or directives under this Act, reported as a single number in a band of 0-249 and thereafter in bands of 250.

''(B) The total number of customer selectors targeted under all national security process received, including all national security letters

and orders or directives under this Act, reported as a single number in a band of 0-249 and thereafter in bands of 250.

''(3) Subject to subsection (b), a report that aggregates the number of orders or national security letters the person was required to comply with in the following separate categories:

''(A) The number of national security letters received, reported in bands of 500 starting with 0-499.

''(B) The number of customer accounts affected by national security letters, reported in bands of 500 starting with 0-499.

''(C) The number of orders under this Act for content, reported in bands of 500 starting with 0-499.

''(D) The number of customer selectors targeted under such orders, in bands of 500 starting with 0-499.

''(E) The number of orders under this Act for non-content, reported in bands of 500 starting with 0-499.

''(F) The number of customer selectors targeted under such orders, reported in bands of 500 starting with 0-499.

''(b) PERIOD OF TIME COVERED BY REPORTS.—With respect to a report described in paragraph (1) or (3) of subsection (a), such report shall only include information—

''(1) except as provided in paragraph (2), for the period of time ending on the date that is at least 180 days before the date of the publication of such report; and

''(2) with respect to an order under this Act or national security letter received with respect to a platform, product, or service for which a person did not previously receive such an order or national security letter (not including an enhancement to or iteration of an existing publicly available platform, product, or service), for the period of time ending on the date that is at least 2 years before the date of the publication of such report.

''(c) OTHER FORMS OF AGREED TO PUBLICATION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the Government and any person from jointly agreeing to the publication of information referred to in this subsection in a time, form, or manner other than as described in this section.

''(d) NATIONAL SECURITY LETTER DEFINED.—The term 'national security letter' has the meaning given the term in section 603.''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in the first section, as amended by section 603 of this Act, is further amended by inserting after the item relating to section 603, as added by section 603 of this Act, the following new item:

''Sec. 604. Public reporting by persons subject to orders.''.

SEC. 605. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR DECISIONS OF THE FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE COURT.

Section 601(c)(1) (50 U.S.C. 1871(c)) is amended to read as follows:

''(1) not later than 45 days after the date on which the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court or the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court of Review issues a decision, order, or opinion, including any denial or modification of an application under this Act, that includes a significant construction or interpretation of any provision of this Act or results in a change of application of any provision of this Act or a new application of any provision of this Act, a copy of such decision, order, or opinion and any pleadings, applications, or memoranda of law associated with such decision, order, or opinion; and''.

SEC. 606. SUBMISSION OF REPORTS UNDER FISA.

(a) ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE.—Section 108(a)(1) (50 U.S.C. 1808(a)(1)) is amended by striking ''the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate,'' and inserting ''the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Select Committee on Intelligence and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate''.

(b) PHYSICAL SEARCHES.—Section 306 (50 U.S.C. 1826) is amended—

(1) in the first sentence, by striking ''Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate,'' and inserting ''Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Select Committee on Intelligence and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate''; and

(2) in the second sentence, by striking ''and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives''.

(c) PEN REGISTER AND TRAP AND TRACE DEVICES.—Section 406(b) (50 U.S.C. 1846(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking the period and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

''(4) each department or agency on behalf of which the Government has made application for orders approving the use of pen registers or trap and trace devices under this title; and

''(5) for each department or agency described in paragraph (4), a breakdown of the numbers required by paragraphs (1), (2), and (3).''.

(d) ACCESS TO CERTAIN BUSINESS RECORDS AND OTHER TANGIBLE THINGS.—Section 502(a) (50 U.S.C. 1862(a)) is amended by striking ''Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives and the Select Committee on Intelligence and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate'' and inserting ''Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives, the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate, and the Committees on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Senate''.

TITLE VII—SUNSETS

SEC. 701. SUNSETS.

(a) USA PATRIOT IMPROVEMENT AND REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2005.—Section 102(b)(1) of the USA PATRIOT Improvement and Reauthorization Act of 2005 (50 U.S.C. 1805 note) is amended by striking ''June 1, 2015'' and inserting ''December 31, 2017''.

(b) INTELLIGENCE REFORM AND TERRORISM PREVENTION ACT OF 2004.—Section 6001(b)(1) of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (50 U.S.C. 1801 note) is amended by striking ''June 1, 2015'' and inserting ''December 31, 2017''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill shall be debatable for 1 hour, with 40 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary and 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) each will control 20 minutes. The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. ROGERS) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RUPPERSBERGER) each will control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 3361.

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

There was no objection.

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

From the founding of the American Republic, this country has been engaged in a profound debate about the limits of government. In the Federalist Papers, the Founders argued passionately for a Federal Government that would protect the American people from foreign threats.

At the same time, the Founders struggled to create a structure to contain and control that government in order to protect the God-given rights of the American people. They carefully crafted the Constitution and Bill of Rights to accomplish these two different, yet complementary, goals.

In essence, this debate has illuminated the exceptionality of the United States. The ceaseless effort to restrain the reach of government is in our DNA as Americans. And for 225 years, we have refused to accept the idea that in order to have national security, we must sacrifice our personal freedoms.

Some, however, think these goals are in conflict with one another following last year's unauthorized disclosure of the National Security Agency's data collection programs operated under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, or FISA.

Today, the House will consider legislation that once again proves that American liberty and security are not mutually exclusive. We can protect both Americans' civil liberties and our national security without compromising either one.

For nearly a year, the House Judiciary Committee has studied this issue in detail. We have held multiple hearings, consulted the Obama administration, and worked across party lines to produce bipartisan legislation to ensure these programs protect our national security and our individual freedoms.

This bill, the USA FREEDOM Act, was unanimously approved by both the House Judiciary Committee and the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. The USA FREEDOM Act makes clear that the government cannot indiscriminately acquire Americans' call detail records and creates a new, narrowly tailored process for the collection of these records.

Specifically, the USA FREEDOM Act ends bulk collection by keeping Americans' phone records in the hands of providers and requiring the government to get the permission of the court to request information from providers, using a specific selection term in their request to the court. That limits the scope of information collected. For example, the government would have to

identify a specific person or account as part of any request for information or tangible things.

Furthermore, the USA FREEDOM Act bans bulk collection not just for the controversial telephone metadata program, but for all of section 215 authorities, as well as NSL letters and pen register, trap and trace devices. These limitations will protect Americans' records of all types, including medical records, email records, telephone records, and firearms purchase records, among many others.

At the same time, the USA FREEDOM Act ensures that the Federal Government will continue to have the tools it needs to identify and intercept terrorist attacks. The bill preserves the traditional operational use of these important authorities by the FBI and other intelligence agencies. It provides needed emergency authority to national security officials if there is an immediate national security threat, but still requires the government to obtain Court approval of an application within 7 days.

The USA FREEDOM Act increases the transparency of our intelligence-gathering programs by creating an amicus curiae in the FISA Court. This amicus will be chosen from a panel of legal experts to help ensure the court adequately considers privacy concerns and the constitutional rights of Americans when reviewing the government's request for records.

It also requires the Director of National Intelligence and the Attorney General to conduct a declassification review of each decision, order, or opinion of the court that includes a significant construction or interpretation of the law and mandates that the government report the number of orders issued, modified, or denied by the court annually.

Last year's national security leaks have also had a commercial and financial impact on American technology companies that have provided these records. They have experienced backlash from both American and foreign consumers and have had their competitive standing in the global marketplace damaged. In January of this year, the Justice Department entered into a settlement with several companies to permit new ways to report data concerning requests for customer information under FISA. The USA FREEDOM Act builds on upon this settlement, allowing tech companies to publicly report national security requests from the government to inform their American and foreign customers.

From beginning to end, this is a carefully crafted, bipartisan bill.

I would like to thank the sponsor of this legislation, Crime Subcommittee Chairman JIM SENSENBRENNER, full committee Ranking Member JOHN CONYERS, Intellectual Property Subcommittee Ranking Member JERRY NADLER, and Crime Subcommittee Ranking Member BOBBY SCOTT for working together with me on this important bipartisan legislation. I also want to thank the staff of these Members for the many hours, weeks, and months of hard work they put into this effort.

Furthermore, I would like to thank my staff—Caroline Lynch, the chief counsel of the Crime Subcommittee, and Sam Ramer—for their long hours and steadfast dedication to this legislation. And I might add that Sam Ramer is going to be missed by the committee as he moves on to take a new responsibility in the private sector, but he wanted to be sure that he could be present today for the completion of the passage of this legislation through the House. I thank Sam and Caroline for their long and dedicated hours put into making sure that this was a finely crafted piece of legislation.

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

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

I rise in support of the USA FREEDOM Act. The version of the bill pending before us today is not a perfect vehicle. There is more that we can do and must do to ensure, as the Fourth Amendment requires, ''The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures.''

But let me be clear. The compromise bill before us today is a significant improvement over the status quo. It is a good bill. Now, with this legislation, we stand poised to end domestic bulk collection across the board—in section 215 of the PATRIOT Act, in the pen register authority, and in the national security letter statutes—by requiring the use of a ''specific selection term'' before the government may obtain information or tangible things.

This legislation will create a panel of experts from which the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court can draw expertise and questions involving privacy, civil liberties, and technology. It will also require the court to disclose every significant opinion it issues, because in this country there should be no such thing as secret law. And we have accomplished all these things while providing President Obama with his requested authority for the limited, prospective collection of call detail records.

Any bill we might have offered on this subject would have been imperfect, but we have been careful to include the critical safeguards in this legislation. With the additional reporting, declassification, and transparency requirements laid out in the measure before us, we believe the government would be hard-pressed to attempt to expand its surveillance authorities beyond the narrow intent of this legislation.

As the administration stated yesterday in a formal statement of policy, the USA FREEDOM Act ''prohibits bulk collection.'' This is our intent, and we will hold the current and future administrations to this intent.

In closing, I want to thank Chairman GOODLATTE, Mr. SENSENBRENNER of Wisconsin, Mr. NADLER of New York, and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia for their tireless leadership on this issue. I also want to express appreciation to Chairman ROGERS and Ranking Member RUPPERSBERGER for their willingness to work with us to reach this point.

The House is poised to approve the first significant rollback of any aspect of government surveillance since the passage of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act in 1978. We must seize this opportunity, and so I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3361.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 15 seconds.

I neglected to add another key member of the committee, Congressman RANDY FORBES of Virginia, a member of the Judiciary Committee who has also been a key bipartisan member of this negotiation.

At this time, it is my pleasure to yield 6 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER), the chairman of the Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations Subcommittee and the chief sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the House for bringing the USA FREEDOM Act to the floor today.

I was the chairman of the Judiciary Committee on September 11, 2001. In the wake of that tragedy, the committee passed the PATRIOT Act with unanimous, bipartisan support. The bill easily passed in both the House and the Senate, and President George W. Bush signed it into law.

I believe the PATRIOT Act made America safer by enhancing the government's ability to find and stop terrorist attacks. We were careful to maintain the civil liberties that distinguish us from our enemies. We are here today because the government misapplied the law and upset the balance between privacy and security that we had fought to preserve 13 years ago.

In a feat of legal gymnastics, the administration convinced the FISA Court that, because some records in the universe of every phone call Americans made might be relevant to counterterrorism, the entire universe of calls must be relevant. That decision opened the floodgates to a practice of bulk collection that Congress never intended when the PATRIOT Act was passed.

□ 0930

Senator LEAHY and I introduced the USA FREEDOM Act to end bulk collection, increase transparency, and to reestablish a proper balance between privacy and security. After months of input and negotiations—in a historic echo of its vote on the PATRIOT Act—the Judiciary Committee unanimously passed the FREEDOM Act.

The challenge we faced was to draft legislation that was tight enough to avoid abuse without infringing on the

core functions of law enforcement and intelligence collection. Perfect is rarely possible in politics, and this bill is no exception.

In order to preserve core operations of the intelligence and law enforcement agencies, the administration insisted on broadening certain authorities and lessening certain restrictions. Some of the changes raise justifiable concerns, and I don't blame people for losing trust in their government, because the government has violated their trust.

Let me be clear: I wish this bill did more. To my colleagues who lament the changes, I agree with you. To privacy groups who are upset about lost provisions, I share your disappointment. The negotiations for this bill were intense, and we have to make compromises, but this bill still does deserve support. Don't let the perfect become the enemy of the good. Today, we have the opportunity to make a powerful statement: Congress does not support bulk collection.

The days of the NSA indiscriminately vacuuming up more data than it can store will end with the USA FREEDOM Act. After the FREEDOM Act passes, we will have a law that expresses Congress' unambiguous intent to end bulk collection of Americans' data across all surveillance authorities.

The bill requires that, in addition to existing restrictions, the government must use a specific selection term as the basis for collecting foreign intelligence information. And maybe more importantly, after this bill becomes law, we will have critical transparency provisions to ensure that, if the government again violates our trust, Congress and the public will know about it and will be able to do something about it.

The FREEDOM Act gives private companies greater discretion to disclose their cooperation with the government. These disclosures give the companies increased autonomy and will alert the public to the extent of data collection. The bill also requires public notification of any FISC decision that contains a significant construction of law—expressly including interpretations of the ''specific selection term.'' This is the end of secret laws. If the administration abuses the intent of the bill, everyone will know.

That is why the FREEDOM Act will succeed. It bans bulk collection and ensures disclosure of attempts to dilute it. Today's vote is a first vote is the first step—and not a final step—in our efforts to reform surveillance. It gives us the tools to ensure that Congress and the public can provide an adequate check on the government. In a post-FREEDOM Act world, we have turned the tables on the NSA and can say to them: ''We are watching you.'' And we will.

I want to thank Chairman GOODLATTE, Ranking Member CONYERS and Congressmen SCOTT, NADLER and FORBES of Virginia for all their hard work. I also want to thank the staff for so many long hours. I cannot overstate the amount of collective sweat and tears that my chief of staff, Bart Forsyth, Caroline Lynch, Sam Ramer, Aaron Hiller, Heather Sawyer, and Joe Graupensperger put into this bill.

But most of all, I want to thank my wife. Cheryl has always been the world's largest and loudest advocate for the preservation of civil rights. She encouraged, supported—and some might say demanded—that I lead this effort. There is no question that we would not be here today for this historic vote on the USA FREEDOM Act if it weren't for her.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased now to yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER), the ranking member of the Intellectual Property Subcommittee.

Mr. NADLER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, today we have the first chance in more than a decade to finally place some real limits on the sweeping, unwarranted—and at times unlawful—government surveillance that many of us have fought against for years.

First and foremost—and as the administration acknowledges in its Statement of Administration Policy—this bill will end bulk collection under section 215 of the USA PATRIOT Act, and will ensure that the government is also prohibited from using its National Security Letter authority, or pen registers and trap-and-trace devices, for bulk collection. It does so by requiring the government to identify a specific selection term—something like a person's name, or an account or telephone number—as the basis for obtaining information. This term must limit the scope of records collected to those that are ''relevant'' to an authorized investigation, which requires a reasonable relationship between the particular records and the subjects of a terrorism investigation.

I share the concerns that the current definition of ''specific selection term'' may still allow overbroad collection. But given the ''presumptively relevant'' categories that Congress has already identified in section 215—and because the bill will now require participation of an amicus in the FISA Court who can argue against an overly broad reading of the law—the government would not be permitted to, for example, use an entire telephone area code or an Internet router to collect and warehouse records just because a terrorist suspect might be using a phone in that area code or sending communications that might traverse that router.

Moreover, to the extent the FISA Court ever construes a specific selection term too broadly, other reforms in the bill ensure that Congress and the American people would know about it immediately and could rein them in.

These changes are quite significant, as are the new restrictions to the use of FISA section 702, which allows the NSA to target persons located outside the United States.

The USA FREEDOM Act on the floor today certainly does not give us everything we want or need. It is the product of heated negotiations across party and committee lines and with the intelligence community. It is far from perfect, but it is an important step forward, and we will work to fix remaining problems and strengthen the bill as it moves through the Senate. But a ''no'' vote on this bill today may mean no reform at all, thus leaving in place the framework that could lead to the continued dragnet surveillance of our citizens. This must end. This still makes critically important changes that we should all support. That is why I will vote for it and why I urge everyone else to vote for it.

With that, I want to thank Congressmen SENSENBRENNER, GOODLATTE, CONYERS, SCOTT, and FORBES, and all the staff members who worked on this bill.

This is a signal occasion. It is the first real progress we will have made—not enough—but a really good first step.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased now to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) who has worked so hard on this.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I join the author of the bill, the gentleman from Wisconsin and chair of the Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Crime, Mr. SENSENBRENNER; my colleague from Virginia, the chair of the full committee, Mr. GOODLATTE; the gentleman from Michigan and ranking member, Mr. CONYERS; Mr. NADLER; and my colleague from Virginia (Mr. FORBES) for proposing this amended version of the USA FREEDOM Act. I commend my colleagues for working together to develop a bipartisan approach to addressing some of the shortcomings in our foreign intelligence surveillance statutes.

As recent revelations about the way that some of these statutes have been used have come to light, members of the Judiciary Committee, which has primary jurisdiction over the statutes, studied the issues, proposed solutions, and worked together to find a way forward. We have also worked with our colleagues from the Intelligence Committee to find common ground in order to bring meaningful surveillance reform to the floor today.

The bill, as amended, addresses abuses, enhances privacy protections, provides more rigorous review of critical questions of legal interpretation, and increases transparency so our citizens will know what is being decided and done in their name.

While the administration has already indicated that it will change its procedures, to paraphrase President Reagan, I think the best course is to ''trust but codify.''

While this version of the USA FREEDOM Act does not accomplish all that we had hoped for, it is, in fact, a significant step in the right direction. I therefore urge my colleagues to support the legislation.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. I am pleased now to yield 2 minutes to the gentlelady from California (Ms. LOFGREN).

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I certainly respect the role that Mr. SENSENBRENNER has played in this and honor him and his wife, Cheryl, for their commitment to freedom. But I must oppose the FREEDOM Act that is on the floor today.

This is not the bill that was reported out of the Judiciary Committee unanimously. I voted for that bill not because it was perfect but because it was a step in the right direction. After the bill was reported out, changes were made without the knowledge of the committee members, and I think the result is a bill that actually will not end bulk collections, regretfully.

As Mr. SCOTT has said, our job is not to trust, but to codify. And if you take a look at the selection changes made in the bill, it would allow for bulk collection should the NSA do so. Further, I would note that the transparency provisions have also been weakened. The 702 section would no longer be reportable by companies who receive orders, and instead of the Attorney General noting decisions that change the law, it is now sent over to the Director of National Intelligence.

Regrettably, we have learned that if we leave any ambiguity in the law, the intelligence agency will run a truck right through that ambiguity. And I think that is why all the civil liberties groups have withdrawn their support from this bill: the ACLU, the Electronic Frontier Foundation, CDT, Open Technology. I would add that FreedomWorks and other libertarian groups have also pulled their support. Companies like Facebook and Google have also pulled their support of the bill.

Now, I hope that we will defeat this bill and come back together—because we do work together well here in the Judiciary Committee—and fix the problems that were created, I think, at the insistence of the administration and give honor to Mr. SENSENBRENNER's original bill that had 151 members cosponsoring it.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds simply to point out two things. First of all, as the gentleman from Wisconsin has noted, this legislation is an effort to bring together widely disparate points of view about how to both maximize our national security and our civil liberties. And there are those outside groups that were just referenced who would like to see more than the language that they were able to obtain in this bill. But I think it is very important for everyone to know that while those groups—some groups—have withdrawn their support for the bill, they do not oppose the bill, and that is a very important distinction for Members to understand.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, it is my pleasure to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING), a member of the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chairman of the Judiciary Committee for yielding to me, and I want to also thank the efforts of the Judiciary Committee and the Select Committee on Intelligence for the broad and intense work they have done on this bill.

The USA FREEDOM Act starts with the right concept, and that is that the civil liberties of Americans were at risk. Even though we have very few examples of people being victimized by it, there is not a level of comfort in this country. And so the move to block the Federal Government from storing metadata and still allow for them to be able to set up under a FISA warrant a query through privately held data is the right way to go. It is a conclusion that I drew early on in the many hearings that I have been to, both classified and unclassified hearings.

I quizzed the witnesses, and I put my mark down on those committee hearings, but what happened was the process moved quickly, and over a weekend there was an intense job to write a bill that turned into a substitute amendment, and a debate in the Judiciary Committee referred over to the Select Committee on Intel. Both committees acted quickly. I offered an amendment before the Judiciary Committee. It was voted on. But I have to say that, in my opinion, it was not considered in a fashion that would have allowed for the full judgment of the Judiciary Committee to weigh in.

My amendment is set up so it allows for the intelligence community to negotiate with the telecoms—the telecommunications providers—for a period of time longer than is today required by the FCC.

□ 0945

I think it is not possible for anyone who supports this bill to argue that it makes us safer. It protects our civil liberties more, but there is a window beyond the FCC requirements that I would like to see be available on something other than a voluntary basis.

I wanted to come here to this floor and put my marker down on that concern, that we should not sacrifice the security in America and we should protect the civil liberties of Americans. We can do that at the same time. I think this bill falls somewhat short; although the underlying concept of the bill, I do support.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased now to yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE), a very active member of the Judiciary Committee.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time, and I thank the ranking member and the chairman for this work.

I also thank Mr. SENSENBRENNER, who we have worked with from the first stages of the PATRIOT Act, when the Judiciary Committee passed it out on a bipartisan basis after that terrible and heinous act of terror. Unfortunately, it was changed.

Today, I want to announce that megadata collection as we know it has ended. That is a major tribute to the American people, and the Judiciary Committee and the Intelligence Committee heard them.

More importantly, the Intelligence Committee and the Judiciary Committee stand united. Can we do more? Should there have been an open rule or a number of other amendments that Members wanted? Yes. I believe in participatory democracy.

Today, we end bulk collection under the PATRIOT Act section 215. We can always do better. Today, we prevent the bulk collection under FISA pen register and National Security Letter authorities and vow to the American people that we increase the transparency.

Let me make it very clear, when we first discussed and debated the PATRIOT Act, reverse targeting, to me, was heinous. It means that it captured an innocent American person as we were looking for someone who happened to be a terrorist.

Today, in this bill, we have any communications as to which the sender and all intended recipients are determined to be located in the United States and prohibit the use of any discrete, nontarget communication that is determined to be to or from a United States person or a person who appears to be located in the United States, except to protect against an immediate threat to harm. It is eliminated. Reverse targeting is no longer.

In addition, I introduced a bill some time ago called the FISA Court and Sunshine Act of 2013. In that bill, it required the Attorney General to disclose each decision, order, or opinion of the FISA Court, allowing Americans to know how broad of a legal authority the government is claiming under the PATRIOT Act and the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act to conduct surveillance needed to keep Americans safe.

I am pleased that, in section 402 and 604 of the USA FREEDOM Act, it requires the Attorney General to conduct a declassification review of each decision, order, or opinion. It opens it up to the American people. That includes a significant construction of interpretation of the law and to submit to Congress within 45 days.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. CONYERS. I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlelady.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I thank the gentleman.

As indicated, the bill specifically contains an explicit prohibition on bulk collection of tangible things pursuant to section 215. The FREEDOM Act provides that section 215 may be used only where specific selection term is provided as the basis for the production of tangible things.

Clearly, we worked very hard to contain what was an amoeba that would not end. Finally, I believe section 301 of the bill, as I indicated, was included, as it was in my amendment in H.R. 3773.

Let me conclude by simply saying that the Bill of Rights lives. The Bill of Rights is for the American people, both the right to freedom, both the right in essence to privacy, and our respect for the gathering of intelligence to protect us from terrorists.

This bill, the USA FREEDOM Act, is indeed an enormous step forward. Let us work together to move us even more, but today, we end megadata collecting as we know it.

Mr. Speaker, I believe we have made a giant step forward for civil liberties, respect for the integrity of the American people, and their right to freedom, as well as for the protecting of all of us from terror.

Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the Judiciary Committee and a co-sponsor, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3361, the ''USA Freedom Act,'' which is short for ''Uniting and Strengthening America by Fulfilling Rights and Ending Eavesdropping, Dragnet-collection, and Online Monitoring Act.''

The USA Freedom Act is the House's unified response to the unauthorized disclosures and subsequent publication in the media in June 2013 regarding the National Security Agency's collection from Verizon of the phone records of all of its American customers, which was authorized by the FISA Court pursuant to Section 215 of the Patriot Act.

Public reaction to the news of this massive and secret data gathering operation was swift and negative.

There was justifiable concern on the part of the public and a large percentage of the Members of this body that the extent and scale of this NSA data collection operation, which exceeded by orders of magnitude anything previously authorized or contemplated, may constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy and threat to the civil liberties of American citizens.

To quell the growing controversy, the Director of National Intelligence declassified and released limited information about this program. According to the DNI, the information acquired under this program did not include the content of any communications or the identity of any subscriber.

The DNI stated that ''the only type of information acquired under the Court's order is telephony metadata, such as telephone numbers dialed and length of calls.''

The assurance given by the DNI, to put it mildly, was not very reassuring.

In response, many Members of Congress, including the Ranking Member CONYERS, and Mr. SENSENBRENNER, and myself, introduced legislation in response to the disclosures to ensure that the law and the practices of the executive branch reflect the intent of Congress in passing the USA Patriot Act and subsequent amendments.

For example, I introduced H.R. 2440, the ''FISA Court in the Sunshine Act of 2013,'' bipartisan legislation, that much needed transparency without compromising national security to the decisions, orders, and opinions of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court or ''FISA Court.''

Specifically, my bill would require the Attorney General to disclose each decision, order, or opinion of a Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court (FISC), allowing Americans to know how broad of a legal authority the government is claiming under the PATRIOT Act and Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act to conduct the surveillance needed to keep Americans safe.

I am pleased that these requirements are incorporated in substantial part as Sections 402 and 604 of the USA Freedom Act, which requires the Attorney General to conduct a declassification review of each decision, order, or opinion of the FISA court that includes a significant construction or interpretation of law and to submit a report to Congress within 45 days.

I also am pleased that the bill before us contains an explicit prohibition on bulk collection of tangible things pursuant to Section 215 authority. Instead, the USA Freedom Act provides that Section 215 may only be used where a specific selection term is provided as the basis for the production of tangible things.

Another important improvement is that the bill's prohibition on domestic bulk collection, as well as its criteria for specifying the information to be collected, applies not only to Section 215 surveillance activities but also to other law enforcement communications interception authorities, such as national security letters.

Finally, I strongly support the USA Freedom Act because Section 301 of the bill continues the prohibition against ''reverse targeting,'' which became law when an earlier Jackson Lee Amendment was included in H.R. 3773, the RESTORE Act of 2007.

''Reverse targeting,'' a concept well known to members of this Committee but not so well understood by those less steeped in the arcana of electronic surveillance, is the practice where the government targets foreigners without a warrant while its actual purpose is to collect information on certain U.S. persons.

One of the main concerns of libertarians and classical conservatives, as well as progressives and civil liberties organizations, in giving expanded authority to the executive branch was the temptation of national security agencies to engage in reverse targeting may be difficult to resist in the absence of strong safeguards to prevent it.

The Jackson Lee Amendment, codified in Section 301 of the USA Freedom Act, reduces even further any such temptation to resort to reverse targeting by requiring the Administration to obtain a regular, individualized FISA warrant whenever the ''real'' target of the surveillance is a person in the United States.

In retaining the prohibition on reverse targeting, Section 301 achieves honors the Constitution by requiring the government to obtain a regular FISA warrant whenever a ''significant purpose of an acquisition is to acquire the communications of a specific person reasonably believed to be located in the United States.''

I should that nothing in Section 301 requires the Government to obtain a FISA order for every overseas target on the off chance that they might pick up a call into or from the United States.

Rather, a FISA order is required only where there is a particular, known person in the United States at the other end of the foreign target's calls in whom the Government has a significant interest such that a significant purpose of the surveillance has become to acquire that person's communications.

Mr. Speaker, while the bill before is a good bill, it is not perfect. No legislation ever is.

In particular, my preference would have been to retain the provision in the bill as originally introduced establishing an Office of the Special Advocate to vigorously advocate in support of legal interpretations that protect individual privacy and civil liberties.

As initially contemplated, the Office of the Special Advocate would be authorized to participate in proceedings before the FISA Court and the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court of Review, and to request reconsiderations of FISA Court decisions and participate in appeals and reviews.

Regrettably, the provision establishing the Office of the Special Advocate fell victim to a compromise and replaced with a provision authorizing both the FISA court and the FISA Court of Review, if they deem it necessary, to appoint an individual to serve as amicus curiae in a case involving a novel or significant interpretation of law.

Under this arrangement, the presiding judges of the courts must designate five individuals eligible to serve in that position who possess expertise in privacy and civil liberties, intelligence collection, telecommunications or any other area that may lend legal or technical expertise to the courts.

The Office of the Special Advocate arrangement in my opinion is superior because it provides for mandatory participation of the public advocate rather than the discretionary involvement of court designated amicus curiae provided in the bill before us.

Mr. Speaker, as I noted in an op-ed published way back in October 2007, nearly two centuries ago, Alexis DeTocqueville, who remains the most astute student of American democracy, observed that the reason democracies invariably prevail in any military conflict is because democracy is the governmental form that best rewards and encourages those traits that are indispensable to success: initiative, innovation, courage, and a love of justice.

I ask unanimous consent to include in the RECORD a copy of that op-ed.

I support the USA Freedom Act because it will help keep us true to the Bill of Rights and strikes the proper balance between our cherished liberty and smart security.

I urge my colleagues to support the USA Freedom Act.

NSA REFORM TAKES ITS FIRST STEPS

The USA FREEDOM Act takes steps to:

End bulk collection under Patriot Act Section 215. The bill requires the government to show the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court that the specific records it seeks from phone companies pertain to a specific email address, account number or other ''selection term'' before it can demand a customer's personal information. It creates a new collection authority for call records but takes meaningful steps to ensure that such records are not vacuumed up wholesale, as was happening under the secret programs revealed by Edward Snowden.

Prevent bulk collection under FISA pen register and National Security Letter authorities. The bill also requires the government to use a ''selection term'' that uniquely describes its surveillance target and serves as the basis for collecting information from a telephone line, facility, or other account. This would help ensure that the government won't use pen registers and National Security Letters as convenient substitutes for the 215 program.

Increase transparency. Finally, the bill requires the government to provide to Congress and to the public additional reporting on its surveillance programs, while enabling companies who receive national security informational requests to more fully inform customers about the extent to which the government is collecting their data. Additional governmental reporting requirements and more particularized third party reporting authorities, however, are needed in order to ensure that Congress and the public have the information they need to perform truly robust oversight.

While the bill makes significant reforms to U.S. surveillance law, Congress clearly chose not to let the perfect be the enemy of the good. And, to be clear, more work needs to be done. Some of the additional reforms we are calling for, which were in the original USA FREEDOM Act, include:

Ensuring that judges in the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court (FISC) have the authority to determine whether an application passes legal muster and do not return to being mere rubber stamps.

Limiting the circumstances under which the government can gather records more than one ''hop'' out from a target to help ensure Americans' information is not unnecessarily swept up.

Closing the ''back door'' search loophole in the FISA Amendments Act to prevent the government from searching information collected under Section 702 of FISA for the U.S. persons' communications content.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HOLDING), a member of the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, the State Department acknowledged that terrorist attacks worldwide have increased by more than 43 percent last year, killing nearly 18,000 people. The odds are rising that we will be hit here in the United States. That is why balanced legislation that protects civil liberties and keeps Americans safe is so important, and the USA FREEDOM Act does just that.

I rise in support of the passage of the USA FREEDOM Act, bipartisan legislation that reforms our intelligence-gathering programs while, importantly, preserving operational capabilities that protect national security.

This legislation will make sure that Americans are protected at a time when the world is a more dangerous place than when the PATRIOT Act itself was enacted into law.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. HONDA).

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I want to add my thanks to the work that has been done up to now. I became an original cosponsor of the USA FREEDOM Act because I was disturbed about the revelations of surveillance programs.

The bill was a good step toward balancing security and privacy, but this amendment does not. It leaves open the possibility that bulk surveillance could still continue, and it no longer protects the public through a special advocate in the FISA Court.

I am disappointed that this popular, bipartisan bill has been so drastically weakened. I can no longer support it.

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

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT).

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman, and I recognize the work that Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. SCOTT, and others have put into this, but it still falls woefully short.

This legislation still allows the government to collect everything they want against Americans, to treat Americans as suspects first and citizens second.

It still allows decisions about whom to target and how aggressively to go after acquaintances of acquaintances of targets, to be made by mid-level employees, not Federal judges.

Most important, the fundamental decisions under this will be made against a weak, inferior standard that does not reach probable cause, so that the government can spy on people based on weak suspicions and not on legally established probable cause. Now, my friends say: don't let the perfect be the enemy of the good.

The perfect? How can anyone here vote for legislation that doesn't uphold the constitutional standard of probable cause? Probable cause has been well-established in law for two centuries, to keep Americans secure by keeping intelligence and enforcement officers focused on real threats, not on vague suspicions or wild-goose chases.

A decade ago, there was a major change in the relationship between Americans and their government. This bill does not correct it.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute to respond to the gentleman from New Jersey.

A number of the things the gentleman has stated are simply not accurate. First of all, the selectors all have to be approved by court order.

Secondly, it is important for everyone to understand that the information gathered is targeted to foreign nationals, not to American citizens.

Thirdly, the increased transparency that is created by this legislation, both in the FISA Court itself and with the fact that the data is now going to be required to be retained by the companies that own the data and not held by the government, provides extra assurance that, if some kind of massive data collection grab were attempted by the government, it would be exposed, as Mr. NADLER pointed out earlier.

Finally, the special selectors language that was carefully worked out in a bipartisan manner carefully limits the ability of people to gather data. It has to be based upon discrete requests, and discretion has a meaning in the law.

It has to be limited to identifiable persons or things, and it has to be done in such a way that the court approves it.

Mr. HOLT. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GOODLATTE. I would be happy to yield.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. GOODLATTE. I yield myself 30 seconds and yield to the gentleman.

Mr. HOLT. Is it not correct that this bill does not invoke the probable cause standard?

Mr. GOODLATTE. This is not a search under the Fourth Amendment, and probable cause has never applied. It has never applied. The gentleman is attempting to change the law if he thinks that.

Mr. HOLT. Will the gentleman yield further?

Mr. GOODLATTE. I yield further to the gentleman.

Mr. HOLT. Is there any American who doesn't think that this is a search, when it comes to gathering, by any common understanding?

Mr. GOODLATTE. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Speaker, when it comes to gathering information about foreign nationals who are deemed to pose a national security threat to the United States, the Fourth Amendment does not apply, and a court must still order the particular selectors that are used.

The gentleman's characterization is inaccurate.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER), a senior member of the committee.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I have heard arguments against this bill, and all of them amount to one argument: the bill doesn't go far enough.

I agree. It doesn't, but it is rarely a good argument against a bill to say it doesn't go far enough, if it goes a long way towards solving a real problem.

This bill will end bulk collection. It will end it under section 215. It will end it under trace and trap, and it will end it under NSLs. Without this bill—and I hope it is strengthened in the Senate—we will have no chance to end bulk collection, and the current framework which allows the dragnet surveillance of our citizens will continue.

I wish this bill were stronger, but it is what we are able to get now. It is a major step forward, and not to pass this bill now would be to say to the NSA: Continue what you are doing, we are placing no restrictions on you beyond what the law already has.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve my time.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank staff on both sides of the aisle for the hard work that went into drafting the bill and the many compromises

that were reached when we went into the final product.

In addition to Caroline Lynch and Sam Ramer with Chairman GOODLATTE, Bart Forsyth with Mr. SENSENBRENNER, our own staff, Aaron Hiller, Joe Graupensperger, Heather Sawyer, all deserve appropriate credit and praise for the many late nights and long weekends that they spent working on the public's behalf on this critical legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I have only one speaker remaining, and I am prepared to close our portion of the remarks if the gentleman is prepared to close.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself an additional 1 minute, and it is to clarify the term ''specific selection term'' because the definition of specific selection term that appears in the compromise bill is imperfect, but the USA FREEDOM Act still ends bulk collection. That is why we are here.

Under the act, the government may not obtain information or tangible things under section 215, the FISA pen register authority, or the National Security Letter statutes without using a ''specific selection term'' as the basis for production.

□ 1000

Critics are correct. This is not as clean or straightforward as the definition approved by both the Intelligence Committee and Judiciary Committee. Nothing in the definition explicitly prohibits the government from using a very broad selection term like ''area code 202'' or ''the entire eastern seaboard.'' But that concern is largely theoretical; the type of collection is not likely to be of use to the government.

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

Mr. GOODLATTE. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, how much time remains?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan has 3 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Virginia has 2¼ minutes remaining.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, the definition of ''specific selection term'' includes a phrase pursuant to the statute authorizing the provision of information, and that is intended to keep the definition within the four corners of the statute.

There will now be an amicus in the court to argue that expansive readings of this text—like the reading that took ''relevance'' in section 215 to mean ''all call detail records''—are inconsistent with the plain meaning of the law.

Under this bill, any FISA Court opinion that interprets this definition must be declassified and released to the public within 45 days. If the government tries to expand this authority, the public will know it in short order.

The House is poised to approve the first significant rollback of any aspect of government surveillance since the passage of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act in 1978. We must seize this opportunity. If this bill is not approved today, we are giving our intelligence people and NSA a green light to go ahead, and I cannot imagine that happening in this body.

I support H.R. 3361 and yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Eighty-six years ago, Justice Louis Brandeis wrote, in his dissent in Olmstead v. United States: ''The makers of our Constitution undertook to secure conditions favorable to the pursuit of happiness. They recognized the significance of man's spiritual nature, of his feelings, and of his intellect. They knew that only a part of the pain, pleasure, and satisfactions of life are to be found in material things. They sought to protect Americans in their beliefs, their thoughts, their emotions, and their sensations. They conferred, as against the government, the right to be let alone—the most comprehensive of rights and the right most valued by civilized men.''

After the horrific attacks on September 11, 2001, the country was determined not to allow such an attack to occur again. The changes we made then to our intelligence laws helped keep us safe from implacable enemies. Today, we renew our commitment to our Nation's security and to the safety of the American people.

We also make this pledge: that the United States of America will remain a nation whose government answers to the will of the people. This country must be what it always has been: a beacon of freedom to the world; a place where the principles of the Founders, including the commitment to individual liberties, will continue to live, protected and nourished for future generations.

I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I might consume.

I would like to begin by recognizing Chairman GOODLATTE, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, the other judiciary committee sponsors, and Leader CANTOR for all their hard work and continuing to forge a compromise with the Intelligence Committee that enacts meaningful change to FISA while preserving operational capabilities.

It is commendable that we have found a responsible legislative solution to address concerns about the bulk telephone metadata program so that we may move forward on other national security legislative priorities. Our obligation to protect this country should not be held hostage by the actions of a traitor or traitors who leaked classified information that puts our troops in the field at risk or those who fearmonger and spread mistruth and misinformation to further their own misguided agenda.

Following the criminal disclosures of intelligence information last June, the section 215 telephone metadata program has been the subject of intense and often inaccurate criticism. The bulk telephone metadata program is legal, overseen, and effective at saving American lives. No review has found anything other than that. All three branches of government oversee this program, including Congress, the FISC, inspectors general and internal compliance and privacy and civil liberties offices in the executive branch agencies.

Despite the effectiveness of the program and immense safeguards on the data, many Americans and many Members of this body still have concerns about a potential for abuse. Remember, the whole debate here has been about the potential for abuse, not that abuse had occurred. The legislation we are considering today is designed to address those concerns and reflect hundreds of hours of Member and staff work to negotiate a workable compromise.

In March, the Intelligence Committee ranking member, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, and I introduced legislation that was designed to accomplish these main priorities. We committed to ending bulk metadata collection for communications and other types of records. We committed to providing more targeted, narrow authorities so as not to put America at risk. We committed to provide an even more robust judicial review than exists today and process for that program. We committed to providing more transparency into the FISA process and the decisions of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court. The revised USA FREEDOM Act accomplishes the same goals as well.

The USA FREEDOM Act provides the meaningful change to the telephone metadata that Members of the House have been seeking. If we had the fortune of having a Commander in Chief firmly dedicated to the preservation of this program, we may have been able to protect it in its entirety. With that not being the case, and I believe this is a workable compromise that protects the core function of a counterterrorism program we know has saved lives around the world, I urge Members to support this legislation.

I want to thank all of those who came together to forge something that has been certainly a difficult process along the way. At the end of the day, something important happened here: a better understanding of the threats by, I think, more Members of Congress that pose every single day to the lives of American citizens by terror groups around the world. That rise in threat level is getting worse. The matrix for that threat level is getting worse.

It was important as we forged and, I think, met the concerns of so many and educated, I think, many on the misinformation that was out there, that we protect the core capability to detect if a foreign terrorist on foreign

soil is making a call to the United States to further advance their goals of killing Americans. I think we accomplished that today. It is not the bill I would have written completely, but I think we protected those operational concerns and met the concerns for those who had a mistrust of that metadata being locked away with the National Security Agency.

With that, I look forward to a thoughtful debate and reserve the balance of my time, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the USA FREEDOM Act, and I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

On May 8, the House Intelligence Committee passed out of the committee the bipartisan USA FREEDOM Act, the identical bill that the Judiciary Committee passed out of committee on May 7.

I especially want to thank Chairman ROGERS for his years of leadership on the House Intelligence Committee. I also want to thank Chairman GOODLATTE and Ranking Member CONYERS, and also Congressman SENSENBRENNER and the staff of our Intelligence and Judiciary Committees for the hard work they did on this bill. We have worked together in a bipartisan manner, and we have come a long way.

After our committee markups, Chairman ROGERS and I have continued to work with the Judiciary Committee and the administration to iron out some remaining issues, which we have done and which is represented in the current bill.

The bill represents the productive efforts of bipartisanship and working together for the American people. Just yesterday, the administration stated that it ''strongly supports'' passage of our bill. Again, the administration said that it ''strongly supports'' passage of our bill. It also stated that the USA FREEDOM Act ''ensures our intelligence and law enforcement professionals have the authorities they need to protect the Nation, while further ensuring that individuals' privacy is appropriately protected.''

The USA FREEDOM Act contains important measures to increase transparency and enhance privacy while maintaining an important national security tool.

First, we have ended bulk collection of telephone metadata and ensured the court reviews each and every search application. The big database up at the National Security Agency that contains phone numbers of millions of Americans will go away. It will be replaced with a tailored, narrow process that allows the government to search only for specific connections to suspected terrorists to keep us safe here at home. There is an important emergency exception when there isn't time to get prior approval from the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, also know as FISC.

Second, we have required expanded reporting for court decisions to improve transparency without threatening sources and methods.

Third, we are creating an advocate to provide outside expertise for significant matters before the FISA Court.

Fourth, we have established a declassification review process of court opinions to ensure the public has access to our national security legal rulings in a manner that still protects our sources and methods.

The USA FREEDOM Act is critical to our country's safety and our intelligence community. It is a focused, logical bill that will let us protect our citizens from terrorist attacks through important legal tools while strengthening civil liberties.

I was opposed to the original USA FREEDOM Act because it set too high a standard for intelligence collection. In short, it would have threatened America's safety by cutting off the building blocks of foreign intelligence investigations. We have worked together in a bipartisan manner and created a solid bill.

Now, it ends bulk collection of all metadata by the government. Those that say this bill will legalize bulk collection are wrong. They are trying to scare you by making you think there are monsters under the bed. There aren't. We end all collection of metadata records. I am again saying read the bill. That is what the bill says. There is nothing else in the bill. It is direct, and it states that we will end all bulk collection by the government.

The USA FREEDOM Act includes the necessary checks and balances across all three branches of government. It protects our Nation while also protecting Americans' privacy and civil liberties.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the USA FREEDOM Act. I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

On May 8th, the House Intelligence Committee favorably reported the bipartisan USA FREEDOM Act—the same bill that the Judiciary Committee favorably reported on May 7th.

I especially want to thank Chairman ROGERS for his years of leadership here on the House Intelligence Committee. I also want to thank Chairman GOODLATTE and Ranking Member CONYERS, and the staff of our Intelligence and Judiciary Committees. We have worked together in a bipartisan manner, and we have come a long way.

After our Committee markups, Chairman ROGERS and I have continued to work with the Judiciary Committee and the Administration to iron out some remaining issues, which we have done, and which is represented in the current bill. This bill represents the productive efforts of bipartisanship and working together for the American people.

Just yesterday, the Administration stated that it "strongly supports" passage of our bill. As the Administration further stated, our bill "ensures our intelligence and law enforcement professionals have the authorities they need to protect the Nation, while further ensuring that individuals' privacy is appropriately protected when these authorities are employed."

The USA FREEDOM Act contains important measures to increase transparency and enhance privacy while maintaining an important national security tool.

First, we have ended bulk collection of telephone metadata. "Bulk" collection means the/indiscriminate acquisition of information or tangible things. It does not mean the acquisition of a large number of communications records or other tangible things. Rather, the prohibition applies to the use of these authorities to engage in indiscriminate or "bulk" data collection.

There is also an emergency exception when there isn't time to get prior approval from the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court—also known as the FISC.

Second, we have required expanded reporting for FISC decisions to improve transparency to the Intelligence and Judiciary Committees without threatening sources and methods.

Third, we are creating an advocate to provide the FISC with outside expertise for matters before the FISA Court. Importantly, we are doing this without infringing on any constitutional provisions or operational processes.

Fourth, we have established a declassification review process of FISC opinions, to ensure that the public has access to our national security legal rulings, while having procedures in place to ensure that our sources and methods continue to be protected.

The USA FREEDOM Act is critical to our Intelligence Community and to our country's safety.

It is a focused, logical bill that will let us protect our citizens from terrorist attacks and protect their civil liberties while maintaining important legal tools.

For instance, our bill is not intended to impact the current scope or use of FISA or National Security Letters, outside the context of bulk data collection, that are traditionally used for national security investigations. Notably, the introduction of the term "specific selection term" is not intended to limit the types of information and tangible things that the government is currently able to collect under FISA or National Security Letter statutes. These changes are prophylactic and intended to respond to concerns that these authorities could be used to permit bulk data collection.

Furthermore, the legislation is not intended to limit the government to use a single "specific selection term" in an application under FISA or a National Security Letter. The government may use multiple "specific selection terms" in a single FISA application or a National Security Letter. For example, the government may request in a single FISA application or National Security Letter information or tangible things relating to multiple persons, entities, accounts, addresses or devices that are relevant to a pending investigation. Similarly, the government may, in a single FISA application or National Security Letter, use multiple "specific selection terms"—such a date and premises—to further narrow the scope of production by a provider.

Our bill also ensures that America can protect Americans' privacy interests while at the same time being able to adapt to evolving national security threats and terrorists' use of ever-changing technology and capabilities to evade detection.

In particular, Section 501(c)(2)(F)(iii) provides for two hops—in other words, the Government will be able to obtain the call detail records in direct contact with a reasonable, articulable suspicion (or, RAS)-approved seed—this is the first hop—and then, using those call detail records or ones the Government identifies itself, obtain the second hop call detail records.

The legislation also creates a new mechanism for obtaining call detail records on a continuing basis for up to 180 days when there

are reasonable grounds to believe that the records are relevant to an authorized investigation to protect against international terrorism and there is a reasonable and articulable suspicion that the records are associated with a foreign power or the agent of a foreign power. The legislation is not intended to affect any current uses of Section 501 outside the bulk collection context, including the use of Section 501 to obtain specified call detail records related to foreign intelligence information not concerning a U.S. person, clandestine intelligence activities, or international terrorism.

I believe that our bill has made real improvements in the way our intelligence collection operates and in improving FISA to achieve even greater privacy and civil liberties protections.

I was opposed to the original USA FREEDOM Act because it put up too many legal hurdles that would have impeded our national security. In short, it would have threatened America's safety by effectively cutting off the building blocks of foreign intelligence investigations.

But we have worked together in a bipartisan manner, and we have come a long way Additionally, since our Committee markups, Chairman ROGERS and I have continued to work with the Judiciary Committee and the Administration to iron out some remaining issues, which we have done, and which is represented in the current bill.

The USA FREEDOM Act includes the necessary checks and balances across all three branches of government and strikes the correct balance that is so critical to protecting our nation, while also protecting Americans' privacy and civil liberties.

□ 1015

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. LOBIONDO), who has been incredibly important, not only on forming this piece of legislation to find the right balance, but his work across North Africa on Boko Haram before it was even popular in bringing attention and resources to important intelligence problems around the world in difficult places, a good friend, a great Member, and a great patriot.

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, let me start out by thanking my colleagues for bringing together an incredibly complicated, difficult issue that probably as recently as a couple of months ago no one thought possible. Tremendous, tremendous accolades to Chairman ROGERS, to Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, to Mr. SENSENBRENNER, to Mr. CONYERS on a whole host of issues that, again, are critically important to our Nation.

You have heard the chairman and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER outline some of the key portions of this, but I think it is critically important to stress that the protection of Americans civil liberties must always be a top priority and always will be a top priority. This bipartisan bill underscores the importance of that while keeping our Nation safe.

The USA FREEDOM Act increases transparency. That is something that people have demanded: increased transparency to the American people, and it allows for greater oversight, something else that we listened to that people wanted to see.

It firmly, as Mr. RUPPERSBERGER and Mr. ROGERS have stated, ends bulk collection of records. This is critically important.

It reforms the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, or FISC, to ensure greater checks and balances are placed in such sensitive national security programs.

But as we discuss this, let's not miss the bigger picture. I have had the opportunity to see firsthand in some pretty dark and remote places on the Earth how our enemies are plotting not just on a daily basis, but on a minute-by-minute basis of how to find a chink in our armor, how can they find some gap which will allow them to attack our homeland, to attack our citizens. This is a constant and ongoing threat.

This bill strikes a balance to allow that transparency for civil liberties while it underscores the ability of our intelligence community to be able to do their job. And having been, as Mr. ROGERS indicated, firsthand in some very remote places on the Earth, we have got some incredibly dedicated people who are putting their lives at risk every day to protect this country.

This is a good bill. Let's pass it.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Illinois, Ms. JAN SCHAKOWSKY, a very important member of our Intelligence Committee, who focuses very strongly on issues of privacy and constitutional rights and people's rights.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, as a cosponsor of the USA FREEDOM Act and a member of Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, I have been committed to reforming these laws.

No bill is perfect, including this one. The USA FREEDOM Act we are voting on today is quite different from the original bill I cosponsored. It has changed significantly from the version recently passed by the House Intelligence and Judiciary Committees.

On its path to the floor, several of the bills' proposed reforms have been watered down and many of us would like to see stronger more meaningful change.

However, we must not let the perfect be the enemy of the good, and I want to congratulate all those who have been part of this bipartisan compromise.

The bill we are considering today includes real reforms, and the intent of Congress is clear: we are putting an end to the bulk collection of metadata, establishing meaningful prior judicial review, and ensuring that important FISA Court decisions are declassified for public consumption. These reforms are important, and future interpretations of FISA must reflect our intentions here today.

I support the act, and I look forward to the opportunity to continue to work with my colleagues to make even more improvements in the future.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. REED) to engage in a colloquy.

Mr. REED. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to commend your efforts, along with those of the Judiciary Committee, in bringing this legislation to the floor of the House. As you and I have met and discussed on numerous occasions, along with my good friend from Indiana (Mr. STUTZMAN), this issue is important to not only many of my constituents back in western New York, but also to our country.

Provisions in this bill, such as the reforms made to bulk data collection and enhanced declassification requirements, are specific ideas that were shared with me by constituents in western New York and brought to here, Washington, D.C.

As you know, I am happy to report, through our work with you, these provisions were incorporated into this legislation.

Mr. Chairman, as this bill moves forward, I hope I have your commitment to continue to work together to assure that a balance between national security and the protection of our personal freedoms is achieved.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from New York for his diligent work on this issue since last summer. Mr. REED's work, along with that of Mr. STUTZMAN from Indiana, was critical to ensuring that we struck the right balance on this legislation. We would not have been able to find that sweet spot that got us to such a strong bipartisan agreement without input from these and other Members interested in finding a solution. Again, I want to thank the gentleman from New York for his interest, his time, and his effort to help be a part of the forging of this important piece of legislation.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN), an expert in cybersecurity. For the years I have been in Congress, I have worked with Mr. LANGEVIN on this issue.

(Mr. LANGEVIN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the USA FREEDOM Act.

I want to thank and congratulate all those who had a hand in crafting the legislation before us, particularly Chairman ROGERS and Ranking Member RUPPERSBERGER.

Changes to our national security program should not be taken lightly, and this compromise legislation is the result of vigorous debate and careful consideration. As Chairman ROGERS pointed out, with all the reviews and investigations that have taken place with respect to the bulk collection program, no violations of law were found. But

there was concern that there could be abuses in the future, and the American people wanted a better balance to be struck between national security and protecting privacy and civil liberties and more accountability. Many of my constituents have expressed concerns about the sanctity of their civil liberties, and I share their concern. I firmly believe that this legislation protects that privacy by ending bulk metadata collection while still safeguarding our national security.

I am particularly pleased that this legislation includes provisions very similar to those that I championed in the Intelligence Committee which allow the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court to appoint an independent advocate with legal or technical expertise in the field, such as privacy and civil liberties, intelligence collection, telecommunication, cyber, or any other area of law necessary in order to ensure independent checks on government surveillance within the court's process.

With that, I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I want to briefly thank Mr. LANGEVIN, who has done not only incredible work on this particular bill, but his work on cybersecurity should make Americans proud of his effort to move that ball down the field. Without his expertise on these matters, the United States would be a little worse off when it comes to national security. I want to thank the gentleman for his work on this bill and his work on cyber and other national security issues.

I continue I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF), a very important member of our committee who does his homework and has really helped me a lot and advised me on a lot of issues that are important to our committee.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the USA FREEDOM Act. This bill ends the bulk collection of American's telephone records and puts in place reforms to surveillance authorities to protect privacy and increased transparency.

I have long advocated that the telephone metadata program should end in favor of a system in which telecommunications providers retain their own records so they can be queried based on a court-approved, reasonable, articulable suspicion standard. That is precisely what this bill puts in place. It allows us to keep the capabilities that we need to protect the Nation from terrorist plots while protecting privacy and civil liberties.

There are remaining ways that the bill can be improved, and I hope as it heads to the Senate there will be opportunities to do so. In particular, I would like to see provisions to introduce an adversarial process in the FISA Court. The FISA Court and the public trust would benefit from an independent advocate in the limited number of cases that call for significant statutory interpretation or novel legal issues. I hope that the Senate will include such provisions, which would be both wise and constitutionally sound.

With that, I urge a ''yes'' vote, and I compliment my chair and ranking member on the extraordinary job they have done.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GALLEGO).

Mr. GALLEGO. Mr. Speaker, I serve on the House Armed Services Committee, and through that assignment I have had the opportunity to spend a lot of time with soldiers, airmen, marines, sailors, and their families.

Like all Americans, I certainly want our sons and daughters to be safe when we send them into harm's way. We want to take as much care of them as we possibly can.

The media has talked some about some of the documents that were released by Mr. Snowden, but there were at one point 7 million documents that were released. Many of these documents didn't even relate to the NSA. When those files are disclosed in the press and they are disclosed to our adversaries that naturally puts our sons and daughters in harm's way. It should say something that the first place you go is China and the second place you go is Russia. That should say something to the American people.

This Memorial Day, I want the American people to focus on those men and women, our country's sons and daughters, who have honorably served our Nation and have stood by their brothers in arms and protected one another as we have asked them to fight for us.

Mr. Chairman and Mr. Ranking Member, thank you for your work on this legislation.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The USA FREEDOM Act is a bipartisan compromise that is strongly supported by the administration.

Our bill protects privacy and civil liberties while also protecting national security.

I urge members to support the USA FREEDOM Act. Nothing in this bill will legalize bulk collection. Unfortunately, there are those Members that are saying this will legalize bulk collection. It is clear that this bill—read the bill—states: there will be no more bulk collection by the government. That is what the bill says, end of story.

This bill balances the issue of taking care and protecting our country from people and individuals who want to kill us and attack us and our allies. But yet it also does what is so important to Americans: to make sure that we protect our constitutional rights and our privacy. It is a balance—it is Republicans, Democrats, left, right, in the middle—coming together and doing what is right for this country. This is what this body should do. We are asking for a ''yes'' vote on the USA FREEDOM Act.

Also, in closing, I want to acknowledge the leadership of Chairman ROGERS and his important leadership that has allowed us to get to this level, the Judiciary Committee, Chairman GOODLATTE, Ranking Member CONYERS, and also Mr. SENSENBRENNER.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

In the comity of the moment, with all the love extended and the group hugs and the high fives, I think it is important to America to understand how much effort—how proud I think they should be about the intensity of the debate and discussion over what this bill looks like because I believe everybody involved in this cares about civil liberties and privacy; they do, wherever you fall on it. And I do believe that everybody who is involved in this cares about our national security.

□ 1030

This debate—this fierce, intense debate—that happened off of this floor in committees, in negotiations over every word and every paragraph and every period, resulted in the bill that you see before us today that did get bipartisan support and buy-in for a very critical issue: at the end of the day, the national security of the United States and the public's trust in the intelligence agencies, which have the responsibility each and every day, in some very dangerous places around the world, to collect the information that keeps America safe.

At the end of this, I hope that people take away from this debate that those who believed that the first round of negotiations meant that our national security was in peril and those who believed in the first round of negotiations that our civil liberties and privacy were in peril found that right balance today. It is that important for our country.

Mr. Speaker, I only bring that up, and I thank all of those involved—the Republicans and Democrats on the Judiciary, the Republicans and Democrats on the Intel Committee, and all of those who were involved in this negotiation.

I think they have done America a favor today, and they have brought back the institutional notion of negotiation and intensity of debate that brings us to a better place today. I think this bill is a result of that. America should be proud.

Now, we can move forward on other national security priorities that will

serve to protect Americans' and our allies' lives around the world.

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

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I reluctantly vote for H.R. 3361. I do so because I recognize that important authorities which help keep our people safe expire next year and that there is a significant chance that those authorities may not be renewed. I also recognize that the abuse of government power by the Obama Administration has damaged the trust that the American people have even in the military and civilian professionals at the National Security Agency. An orchestrated campaign of distortions and half-truths has called NSA's trustworthiness into question for too many Americans.

That is unfortunate and unfair. The men and women at NSA have had more than a decade of remarkable success, not only in protecting our country from another 9/11-type attack, but supporting our warfighters on the ground in Iraq, Afghanistan, and around the world. While few Americans will ever learn the details of their accomplishments, we all benefit from their hard work, dedication to their mission, and professionalism.

We should be clear-eyed about the effects of this bill. It makes it harder to gather the information necessary to stop terrorism; it means that it will take longer to find the essential connections of terrorist networks; and this bill makes it less likely, hopefully only slightly less likely, that we will stop future terrorist attacks. But there is no doubt that America will be less safe from terrorist attack after this bill takes effect than it is today.

Apparently, that result is inevitable if we are to prevent even worse damage to our country's security and our people's safety. So, I vote today to minimize the damage to our national security while maintaining respect and gratitude for the men and women in the military, intelligence community, and law enforcement who dedicate their lives to keeping us all safe.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, government should protect our liberties, not violate them. Individuals and businesses alike must be able to trust their government to work for them—not spy on them. The NSA's bulk collection of Americans' phone records threatens our constitutional liberties.

We have the opportunity to pass legislation that both limits the reach of the NSA and provides the transparency to lawmakers and the American people necessary to prevent abusive practices from happening again. We have the opportunity to begin to restore the trust of the American people.

The original and Committee-passed versions of the USA FREEDOM Act struck a careful balance between our liberty and our security, providing the reforms necessary to restore trust. I was proud to be an original cosponsor of this bill, and commend Representative Jim Sensenbrenner and Chairman Bob Goodlatte for their work to protect our civil liberties.

Unfortunately, the floor-version of the USA FREEDOM Act falls short of our goal.

This legislation would still allow for the mass collection of information. The Committee-passed legislation required court orders to be based on "specific-selection terms"—which was defined as a "person, entity or account." The floor version broadens the scope of "specific-selection term" by defining it as a "discrete term." This ambiguous legal phrase does not have defined limitations, and could capture millions of individuals' information.

The existing data collection programs that were revealed to the American people within the last year are unacceptable, and we must not only legislate stronger safeguards for intelligence gathering but must vigorously conduct oversight to prevent constitutional intrusions by big government. Of the few transparency requirements left in the bill, significant construction of law made by the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court (FISC) would be reviewed for declassification to the American people. However, the floor version of the bill transfers the authority to conduct declassification to the Director of National Intelligence, James Clapper. Last year, Director Clapper lied under oath to Congress when asked about the existence of programs that collect data on millions of Americans. I cannot in good conscious support legislation that would place the responsibility of transparency with a government official who has already violated the trust of the American people.

For these reasons, I will not support the floor version of the USA FREEDOM Act. I hope that my colleagues and I will be able to come together to enact reforms the American people deserve.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 590, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 303, nays 121, not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 230]

YEAS—303

Aderholt
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Beatty
Benishek
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu
Cicilline
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Cuellar
Culberson
Davis (CA)
Davis, Rodney
Delaney
DeLauro
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Duckworth
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Engel
Enyart
Esty
Farenthold
Fincher
Fleischmann
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gingrey (GA)
Goodlatte
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (MO)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Grimm
Guthrie
Gutiérrez
Hall
Harper
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Holding
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Joyce
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Levin
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Long
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marino
Matheson
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McDermott
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moore
Moran
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Palazzo
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Pompeo
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Ryan (WI)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Titus
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NAYS—121

Amash
Barton
Becerra
Bentivolio
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Broun (GA)
Burgess
Campbell
Capuano
Cárdenas
Cartwright
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Crowley
Cummings
Daines
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
DelBene
DesJarlais
Doggett
Doyle
Duncan (SC)
Edwards
Ellison
Eshoo
Farr
Fattah
Fitzpatrick
Fleming
Foster
Gabbard
Gardner
Garrett
Gibson
Gohmert
Gosar
Graves (GA)
Grayson
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harris
Hastings (FL)
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Huelskamp
Issa
Jeffries
Jones
Jordan
Kaptur
Keating
King (IA)
Kingston
Labrador
Lee (CA)
Lewis
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lummis
Maffei

Marchant
Massie
Matsui
McClintock
McCollum
McGovern
Meadows
Miller, George
Mulvaney
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Nolan
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Perry
Pingree (ME)
Poe (TX)
Polis
Posey
Ribble
Roe (TN)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rothfus
Ryan (OH)
Salmon
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanford
Schweikert
Serrano
Shea-Porter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stockman
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Terry
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Tipton
Tonko
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walorski
Walz
Waxman
Weber (TX)
Welch
Yarmuth
Yoho

NOT VOTING—7

Bass
Duffy
Miller, Gary
Richmond
Rush
Schwartz
Slaughter

□ 1103

Messrs. DANNY DAVIS of Illinois, ROHRABACHER, ISSA, BRADY of Pennsylvania, WELCH, TONKO, FITZPATRICK, SERRANO, CUMMINGS, MAFFEI, ELLISON, and LOWENTHAL changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Messrs. HIMES, COLE, LYNCH, Ms. MOORE, Messrs. LAMALFA and DESANTIS changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 1036. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 103 Center Street West in Eatonville, Washington, as the ''National Park Ranger Margaret Anderson Post Office''.

H.R. 1228. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 123 South 9th Street in De Pere, Wisconsin, as the ''Corporal Justin D. Ross Post Office Building''.

H.R. 1451. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14 Main Street in Brockport, New York, as the ''Staff Sergeant Nicholas J. Reid Post Office Building''.

H.R. 2391. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5323 Highway N in Cottleville, Missouri as the ''Lance Corporal Phillip Vinnedge Post Office''.

H.R. 3060. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 232 Southwest Johnson Avenue in Burleson, Texas, as the ''Sergeant William Moody Post Office Building''.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 2086. An act to address current emergency shortages of propane and other home heating fuels and to provide greater flexibility and information for Governors to address such emergencies in the future.

HOWARD P. ''BUCK'' MCKEON NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 590 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 4435.

Will the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WOMACK) kindly take the chair.

□ 1105

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, with Mr. WOMACK (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Wednesday, May 21, 2014, the seventh set of en bloc amendments, as modified, offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. MCKEON) had been disposed of.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments printed in part A of House Report 113–460 on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

Amendment No. 1 by Mr. MCKINLEY of West Virginia.

Amendment No. 6 by Mr. SHIMKUS of Illinois.

Amendment No. 10 by Mr. SMITH of Washington.

Amendment No. 11 by Mr. SMITH of Washington.

Amendment No. 15 by Ms. JENKINS of Kansas.

Amendment No. 17 by Mr. LAMBORN of Colorado.

Amendment No. 21 by Mr. SCHIFF of California.

Amendment No. 24 by Mr. BLUMENAUER of Oregon.

The Chair will reduce to 2 minutes the time for any electronic vote in this series.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. MCKINLEY

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MCKINLEY) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 231, noes 192, not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 231]

AYES—231

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Cuellar
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gardner
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latham
Latta
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Rahall
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOES—192

Barber
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle

Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Garrett
Gibson
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Nolan
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—8

Bass
Duffy
Jackson Lee
Miller, Gary
Richmond
Rush
Schwartz
Slaughter

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1111

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MR. SHIMKUS

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 245, noes 177, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 232]

AYES—245

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Capuano
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Cuellar
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Enyart
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gabbard
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latham
Latta
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Maffei
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Peterson
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Rahall
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOES—177

Barber
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gallego
Garamendi
Green, Al
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Nolan
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sires
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—9

Bachus
Bass
Duffy
LaMalfa
Miller, Gary
Richmond
Rush
Schwartz
Slaughter

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1116

Ms. SINEMA, Messrs. HALL and COFFMAN changed their vote from ''no'' to ''aye.''

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 10 OFFERED BY MR. SMITH OF WASHINGTON

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. SMITH) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 177, noes 247, not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 233]

AYES—177

Amash
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)

Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Garamendi
Gibson
Gohmert
Grayson
Green, Al
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maloney, Carolyn
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Nolan
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanford
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Sires
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOES—247

Aderholt
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Cuellar
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duncan (SC)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallego
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gingrey (GA)
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latham
Latta
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Maffei
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Rahall
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Ruiz
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanchez, Loretta
Scalise
Schneider
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shea-Porter
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Vela
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—7

Bass
Duffy
Miller, Gary
Richmond
Rush
Schwartz
Slaughter

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1121

Mr. LEVIN changed his vote from ''no'' to ''aye.''

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 11 OFFERED BY MR. SMITH OF WASHINGTON

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. SMITH) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 191, noes 230, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 234]

AYES—191

Amash
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Courtney
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garcia
Gibson
Gosar
Grayson
Green, Al
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huelskamp
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Labrador
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Lewis
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Massie
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Nolan
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Ribble
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanford
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sinema
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stockman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOES—230

Aderholt
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Costa
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Cuellar
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duncan (SC)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
LaMalfa
Lamborn

Lance
Lankford
Latham
Latta
Levin
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Lynch
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Matheson
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Peterson
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanchez, Loretta
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—10

Bass
Duffy
Garamendi
Gingrey (GA)
Miller, Gary
Richmond
Rush
Schwartz
Sires
Slaughter

□ 1124

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 15 OFFERED BY MS. JENKINS

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Kansas (Ms. JENKINS) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 179, noes 244, not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 235]

AYES—179

Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barr
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Coble
Coffman
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Cuellar
Culberson
Daines
Denham
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Fincher
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gingrey (GA)
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Guthrie
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jordan
Kelly (PA)
Kingston
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Latham
Latta
Long
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Massie
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Mulvaney
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Perry
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thornberry
Tiberi
Upton
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (IN)

NOES—244

Aderholt
Barber
Barletta
Barrow (GA)
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Bridenstine
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chaffetz
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Dent
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fitzpatrick
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gibson
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Grimm
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marino
Matheson
Matsui
McAllister
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McKinley
McNerney
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Nolan
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Rogers (AL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stewart
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Welch
Westmoreland
Wilson (FL)
Wittman
Wolf
Yarmuth
Young (AK)

NOT VOTING—8

Bass
Duffy
Gohmert
Miller, Gary
Richmond
Rush
Schwartz
Slaughter

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1128

Mr. HALL changed his vote from ''aye'' to ''no.''

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 17 OFFERED BY MR. LAMBORN

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 233, noes 191, not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 236]

AYES—233

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann

Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latham
Latta
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Maffei
Marchant
Marino
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perlmutter
Perry
Peterson
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOES—191

Barber
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Fortenberry
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Massie
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Nolan
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Rohrabacher
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—7

Bass
Duffy
Miller, Gary
Richmond
Rush
Schwartz
Slaughter

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1132

Mr. COFFMAN changed his vote from ''no'' to ''aye.''

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 21 OFFERED BY MR. SCHIFF

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 191, noes 233, not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 237]

AYES—191

Amash
Bachmann
Beatty
Becerra
Benishek
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Broun (GA)
Brownley (CA)
Burgess
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Courtney
Crowley
Cummings
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
DesJarlais
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Garamendi
Gibson
Gohmert
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huelskamp
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kuster
Labrador
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Massie
Matheson
Matsui
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Nolan
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (MI)
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Posey
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Rohrabacher
Rooney
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanford
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Shea-Porter
Sires
Speier
Stockman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Waters
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Woodall
Yarmuth

NOES—233

Aderholt
Amodei
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Brown (FL)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Bustos
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Costa
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Cuellar
Culberson
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Rodney
Delaney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
Diaz-Balart
Duckworth
Duncan (SC)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallego
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gingrey (GA)
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Lankford
Latham
Latta
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Marchant
Marino
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Mullin
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Peters (CA)
Peterson
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo

Price (GA)
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rokita
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanchez, Loretta
Scalise
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Scott, Austin
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Vela
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Wasserman Schultz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—7

Bass
Duffy
Miller, Gary
Richmond
Rush
Schwartz
Slaughter

□ 1136

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, on rollcall No. 237, I inadvertently voted in the affirmative when I intended to vote in the negative. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

AMENDMENT NO. 24 OFFERED BY MR. BLUMENAUER

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 224, noes 199, not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 238]

AYES—224

Amash
Barber
Barrow (GA)
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Bridenstine
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Campbell
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Dent
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibson
Gohmert
Gosar
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hanna
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huelskamp
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Labrador
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Sean
Massie
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Nolan
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Renacci
Rohrabacher
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stockman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tiberi
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Upton
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Welch
Whitfield
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOES—199

Aderholt
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Denham
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duncan (SC)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gardner
Gibbs
Gingrey (GA)
Goodlatte
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hall
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jordan
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latham
Latta
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Marino
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Mullin
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Peterson
Pittenger
Pitts
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Reed
Reichert
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tipton
Turner
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—8

Bass
Duffy
Maloney, Carolyn
Miller, Gary
Richmond
Rush
Schwartz
Slaughter

□ 1140

Mr. MULVANEY changed his vote from "no" to "aye."

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Chair, during rollcall vote No. 238, Blumenauer Amendment No. 24 to H.R. 4435, I mistakenly recorded my vote as "no" when I should have voted "yes."

The Acting CHAIR. No further amendments being in order, under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. TERRY) having assumed the chair, Mr. WOMACK, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4435) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, and, pursuant to House Resolution 590, he reported the bill, as amended by House Resolution 585, back to the House with sundry further amendments adopted in the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole? If not, the Chair will put them en gros.

The amendments were agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. PETERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman opposed to the bill?

Mr. PETERS of California. I am opposed in its current form.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Peters of California moves to recommit the bill H.R. 4435 to the Committee on Armed Services with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendment:

At end of title X, add the following new section:

SEC. 1082. PROVISIONS RELATING TO WAGES, DISCRIMINATION, OUTSOURCING JOBS, STUDENT LOANS, AND BAGGAGE FEES.

(a) PAYING A FAIR WAGE.—None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available to the Department of Defense may be used to enter into any contract with any entity if such contract would violate Executive Order No. 13658 (relating to payment of the minimum wage by contractors).

(b) PROHIBITING DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN.—The Secretary of Defense shall ensure that women service members do not face gender discrimination in combat or in any other form of military service.

(c) PROHIBITION ON CONTRACTING WITH COMPANIES THAT DENY EQUAL PAY OR THAT OUTSOURCE AMERICAN JOBS.—

(1) PROHIBITION.—None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available to the Department of Defense may be used to enter into any contract with an entity if the entity—

(A) does not provide equal pay for equal work for women employees; or

(B) has outsourced work previously performed in the United States.

(2) OUTSOURCED DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''outsourced'', with respect to an entity with employees performing work in the United States, means having fewer full-time equivalent employees in the United States and a larger number of such employees outside the United States on the last day of the calendar year compared to the first day of such calendar year.

(3) WAIVER.—The Secretary of Defense may waive the prohibition in paragraph (1) if necessary for national security purposes.

(d) PROTECTING STUDENT LOANS.—

(1) INSPECTOR GENERAL INVESTIGATION.—The Inspector General of the Department of Defense shall investigate the factors surrounding the deceptive practices and excessive interest and fees charged on student loans made to members of the Armed Forces.

(2) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of Defense shall prescribe regulations to better inform such members of their rights as borrowers and the proper documentation required to qualify for student loans under the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. App. 501 et seq.).

(e) NO BAGGAGE FEES FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.—

(1) No air carrier may charge any fee for the transport of 4 or fewer items of baggage checked by a member of the Armed Forces who is—

(A) traveling in scheduled air transportation on official military orders; and

(B) being deployed on or returning from an overseas contingency operation.

(2) For purposes of this section, the term ''baggage'' does not include an item whose weight exceeds 80 pounds.

Mr. MCKEON (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California (Mr. PETERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

□ 1145

Mr. PETERS of California. Mr. Speaker, this is the final amendment to H.R. 4435, which will not kill the bill or send it back to committee. If adopted, the bill will immediately proceed to final passage, as amended.

As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I am proud of the bipartisan work we did this year to craft the 2015 National Defense Authorization Act, and I want to thank Chairman MCKEON, in his last year leading the committee, for his leadership and commitment to bipartisanship.

Mr. Speaker, in San Diego, Coronado, and Poway, we are proud of the role our region plays in national security. My district alone is home to seven military installations, including MCAS Miramar, the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Navy Region Southwest, Naval Base Coronado, and Naval Base Point Loma.

San Diego County is home to more than 235,000 veterans, and this year, we launched the national model Military Transition Support Project, which will provide nonprofit and volunteer help for servicemembers transitioning to the workplace and private sector. San Diego is a military town, and we are proud of it.

Defense is also a big part of our economy, responsible for more than 300,000 jobs in the region, accounting for almost $25 billion in direct spending last year, and we were the home port of 53 ships, with an economic impact of $4 billion.

It is fair to say, when the government makes investments in our military or sharp cuts like sequestration, we feel it locally.

This amendment would ensure that, as we make our investments in national security of nearly $600 billion, in San Diego and across the country, we use that money to foster economic opportunity and equality here at home.

My amendment ensures that the jobs we are creating are good jobs and pay the same minimum wage standard of $10.10 an hour as we are moving to statewide in California.

Those working full time to support our national security mission shouldn't be in poverty, struggling with the choice of food for their children, or keeping the lights on in the house.

My amendment would also ensure pay equity. It is not news, Mr. Speaker, that women across the country continue to face pay inequity. In San Diego, women still make 75 cents for every dollar earned by their male counterparts on average.

This amendment would prohibit defense contracts to companies that don't provide equal pay for equal work. That is not a women's issue; it is a family issue. Families in San Diego and across the country increasingly rely on women's wages to pay bills, educate their children, and save for retirement.

Along with working to close the wage gap for women, this amendment codifies into law a Department of Defense policy that is already in effect to allow women in combat, and this amendment keeps our promise to servicemembers through the GI Bill.

Recently, Sallie Mae agreed to pay $97 million to settle allegations that military servicemembers were charged excessive interest and fees on their student loans. That is absolutely appalling and unacceptable.

The amendment would require an investigation of these deceptive scam practices, ensure that they are stopped, and would require in the future that borrowers are informed of their rights.

Our men and women in uniform and our veterans deserve our protection against fraud and to see that their GI Bill supports a high-quality education that leads to a high-quality job and nothing less.

Finally, with the drawdown in Afghanistan and the rebalance to the Pacific, many of our servicemembers are traveling extensive distances to and from deployments.

During this travel, many in uniform are being charged excessive baggage fees by commercial airlines. The amendment would prohibit airlines from collecting these fees, much of which is being charged on lifesaving equipment that servicemembers are buying and bringing in on their own because the Department doesn't supply what is necessary.

While it may seem like a small change, it will ease the burden on servicemembers. Charging baggage fees is not the way we should be sending off or welcoming home our troops.

In today's bill, we are authorizing nearly $600 billion. As we support our national security and defense abroad, we have the chance to promote economic opportunity and equal rights here at home. Our warfighters and all Americans who work to support them deserve nothing less.

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

Mr. MCKEON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCKEON. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for their warm round of applause. It was great to hear their feelings.

We, on the Armed Services Committee and here in Congress, have the responsibility to provide for our national defense for our interests around the world and the commitments we have made to our friends and allies. We do not have a defense to provide jobs.

We have a defense to provide for our national security. Fortunately, the jobs that are provided through defense are good jobs. With the cuts that we have had in our defense, a lot of those jobs have gone away, and our defense has been weakened.

Colleagues, we have had a vigorous debate on this measure. This bill was marked up by six different subcommittees, then the full Armed Services Committee considered the legislation. One hundred ninety-five amendments were offered during our markup alone, 95 by Democrats and 100 by Republicans. We adopted 154 of those, and the bill passed out of committee with unanimous support, 61–0.

Then we moved the bill to the floor following regular order. One hundred sixty-nine more amendments were made in order, 39 bipartisan amendments, 57 by Democrats, and 73 by Republicans.

Nobody can say we haven't had ample opportunity to consider everybody's ideas, discuss them, and vote. To everyone, I say thank you for your help, your support. It is important to get this 53rd consecutive NDAA passed because of the important authorities that are in the bill. Let's oppose this motion to recommit and pass the bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. PETERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, this 5-minute vote on the motion to recommit will be followed by a 5-minute vote on passage of the bill, if ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 194, noes 227, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 239]

AYES—194

Barber
Barrow (GA)
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Nolan
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOES—227

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latham
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—10

Bass
Coble
Duffy
Miller, Gary
Richmond
Roe (TN)
Rush
Schwartz
Slaughter
Wolf

□ 1158

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 325, noes 98, not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 240]

AYES—325

Aderholt
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Beatty
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cartwright
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Cuellar
Culberson
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Duckworth
Duncan (SC)
Ellmers
Enyart
Esty
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Goodlatte
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Holding
Horsford
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jordan
Joyce

Kaptur
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kilmer
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Long
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Matheson
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
O'Rourke
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Pascrell
Paulsen
Pearce
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Price (GA)
Rahall
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanford
Scalise
Schneider
Schock
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Takano
Terry
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Titus
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Waters
Waxman
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOES—98

Amash
Becerra
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Capps
Capuano
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cohen
Conyers
Crowley
Cummings
DeFazio
DeGette
Deutch
Doyle
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Farr
Fattah
Fudge
Gohmert
Gosar
Grayson
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hastings (FL)
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Huffman
Jeffries
Jones
Keating
Kennedy
Kildee
Kind
Labrador
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lummis
Massie
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
Meng
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Pallone
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Posey
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Rohrabacher
Roybal-Allard
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Serrano
Sires
Speier
Stockman
Swalwell (CA)
Thompson (CA)
Tierney
Tonko
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Wasserman Schultz
Weber (TX)
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—8

Bass
Coble
Duffy
Miller, Gary
Richmond
Rush
Schwartz
Slaughter

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MEADOWS) (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1216

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: ''A bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.''.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO MAKE CORRECTIONS IN ENGROSSMENT OF H.R. 4435, HOWARD P. ''BUCK'' McKEON NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Clerk be authorized to make technical corrections in the engrossment of H.R. 4435, including corrections in spelling, punctuation, section and title numbering, cross-referencing, conforming amendments to the table of contents and short titles, and the insertion of appropriate headings, and that the amendatory instructions for amendment No. 35 be changed from ''after line 21'' to ''after line 9.''

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

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING CLASSIFIED SCHEDULE OF AUTHORIZATIONS AND CLASSIFIED ANNEX ACCOMPANYING INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEARS 2014 AND 2015

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I wish to announce to all Members of the House that the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence has ordered the bill H.R. 4681, the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015, reported favorably to the House today with an amendment, and will file its report on the bill in the House next week. The bill is currently expected to be considered in the House next week.

Mr. Speaker, the classified schedules of authorizations and the classified annexes accompanying the bill are available for review by Members at the offices of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence in Room HVC–304 of the Capitol Visitors Center. The committee office will be open during regular business hours for the convenience of any Member who wishes to review this material prior to its consideration of the House.

I recommend that Members wishing to review the classified annex contact the committee's director of security to arrange a time and date for that viewing. This will assure the availability of committee staff to assist Members who desire assistance during their review of these classified materials.

I urge interested Members to review these materials in order to better understand the committee's recommendations. The classified annexes to the committee's report contain the committee's recommendations on the intelligence budget for fiscal years 2014 and 2015 and related classified information that cannot be disclosed publicly.

It is important that Members keep in mind the requirements of clause 13 of House rule XXIII, which only permits access to classified information by those Members of the House who have signed the oath provided for in the rules.

If a Member has not yet signed that oath but wishes to review the classified annexes and schedules of authorizations, the committee staff can administer the oath and see to it that the executed form is sent to the Clerk's office. In addition, the committee's rules require that Members agree in writing to a nondisclosure agreement. The agreement indicates that the Member has been granted access to the classified annexes and that they are familiar with the rules of the House and the committee with respect to the classified nature of that information and the limitations on the disclosure of that information.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend from Virginia (Mr. CANTOR), the majority leader, for the purpose of inquiring of the schedule of the week to come.

Mr. CANTOR. I thank the gentleman from Maryland, the Democratic whip, for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, on Monday, the House is not in session in observation of Memorial Day.

On Tuesday, the House will meet in pro forma session at noon and no votes are expected.

On Wednesday, the House will meet at noon for morning hour and 2 p.m. for legislative business. Votes will be postponed until 6:30 p.m.

On Thursday, the House will meet at 10 a.m. for morning hour and noon for legislative business.

On Friday, the House will meet at 9 a.m. for legislative business. Last votes of the week are expected no later than 3 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, the House will consider a few suspensions next week, a complete list of which will be announced at the close of business tomorrow.

In addition, the House will consider H.R. 4660, the Fiscal Year 2015 Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations Act, sponsored by subcommittee Chairman FRANK WOLF. Members are advised that general and amendment debate to the bill is expected after the 6 p.m. vote series on Wednesday night.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, the House will consider H.R. 4661, the Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015 Intelligence Authorization Act authored by Chairman MIKE ROGERS. Providing the tools and the oversight of the intelligence community is a vital role of Congress, as we have shown earlier today. We should remember the intelligence community serves a vital role in warning senior policymakers about looming threats, and is absolutely essential to meeting the needs of our military. Sustaining our military and intelligence capabilities are core interests of the United States. I look forward to swift passage of this bill in the House.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for his information.

I note that an appropriations bill and the CJS bill will be on the floor next week.

Let me pursue, if I can, Mr. Speaker, the progress that the Appropriations Committee will be making.

Am I correct, Mr. Leader, that this will be an open rule on the CJS bill?

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I would say to the gentleman that the Rules Committee has already done its work and the House has already passed the bill, the rule bill, which provides for an open rule.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for that information.

I understand, in addition, that the Appropriations Committee continues to mark up bills this week to pass their fourth bill, the Transportation-HUD bill, out of committee.

The question I would propound to the majority leader, Mr. Speaker, is whether or not we anticipate completing the markup of the 12 appropriation bills before the August break?

I yield to the majority Leader.

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I would say to the gentleman that the committee certainly has expressed its desire, as our conference has, as the Speaker has, to move all 12 appropriations bills, and we will move towards that goal in an expeditious nature as much as we can.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman, Mr. Speaker, for the information.

Obviously, one of the bills that I am particularly concerned about is the Labor, Health, and Education investments that we have been making. There is a substantial cut proposed in the 302(b) allocations, which is the allocations of the larger number to the 12 subcommittees, a substantial cut in the Labor-Health bill, well below historic levels. I hope that as we continue to work through the appropriations process, we can address that issue and not double down on the cuts that have already occurred in what I think the Leader and I both believe is a very critical bill, which includes funding for the National Institutes of Health.

We have 31 days left to go before the August break, legislative days, 43 days until our break in October, so time is essence. I would hope that we could address these bills and debate the priorities that these bills represent before we leave for the August break.

I yield to my friend if he wants to comment on that.

Mr. CANTOR. I would say to the gentleman just briefly, there is a $1 billion cut to a $155 billion bill. That represents a 0.9 percent decrease, according to what the committee has set forth as far as the 302(b)s are concerned.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, the $155 billion, of course, is a gross figure and includes items beyond discretionary figures in that bill.

The fact of the matter is that NIH has been cut by a very substantially higher percentage than that, somewhere in the neighborhood of 6 percent, maybe 5 percent. So it is a substantial decrease in the ability to pursue grants, both external grants and internal research by the NIH, on the afflictions that confront our people, whether it be heart disease, cancer, pediatric research, diabetes, Alzheimer's. All of those will be affected to a much larger extent than would be projected by the gross figure of $155 billion to which the Leader responds.

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HOYER. I certainly will yield.

Mr. CANTOR. I thank the gentleman.

Just to clarify, the amount of the $155 billion is the 302(b). That is the discretionary amount. So I would just underscore the fact that the $1 billion cut applies to the $155 billion discretionary amount.

But the gentleman knows—he has worked on issues of NIH funding—he knows that I am very committed to making a priority out of funding medical research at NIH. We have been successful in the House. The President signed into law the Gabriella Miller Kids First Research Act, which is just the first step towards making a priority out of medical research, in this instance, for pediatrics, and to doing away with spending in other areas that are not as much of a priority.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that leadership is about assessing priorities and making sure taxpayer dollars are being allocated as such.

We also passed bills out of the House having to do with graduate medical education and making sure that pediatrics and the need for more pediatricians to deal with children is there.

I share the gentleman's overall concern that we make a commitment long term to finding cures so that we can ultimately save lives, but also save taxpayer dollars, as we would like to arrest the increase in health care costs.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman, Mr. Speaker, for his remarks, and I will look forward to debating what he says is an important responsibility of this House, and that is to set priorities. When the Labor-Health bill comes before us—and the $155 billion is the gross number that goes to that committee; the $30 billion-plus is what NIH has, and the $1.5 billion that I am talking about is a cut to NIH, not to the gross figure of $155 billion, so I understand the figures. But we will have an opportunity to debate that when we come to the floor on the Labor-Health bill, if, in fact, we ever come to the floor on the Labor-Health bill. We didn't come to it last year or the year before. Hopefully, we will come to it this year.

Two additional things I would like to ask the leader, Mr. Speaker.

□ 1230

Earlier this week, I had an opportunity to meet with a number of DREAMers who want to join the Armed Forces of the United States. There is a bill called the ENLIST Act, introduced by one of our Republican Members, that essentially says that we are going to allow DREAMers to enlist, and through their service, they could establish their paths to citizenship.

Mr. Speaker, that is an important bill for me because my father came from Denmark. He came here in 1934, at the age of 32. He served in the Armed Forces of the United States, and he became a citizen through his service during World War II in the Armed Forces of the United States.

The sponsor of the ENLIST Act wanted to offer it to the defense authorization bill that we just passed. Last year, when the House considered the defense authorization bill, an amendment similar to the ENLIST Act was made in order.

Unfortunately, it was not made in order this time, so we didn't get an opportunity to vote on that one way or the other. The majority leader knows, Mr. Speaker, that I have been asking in almost every colloquy when we are going to consider legislation that will deal with the broken immigration system that confronts us. This was one opportunity. It was, again, rejected. It was not missed—rejected.

So many colleagues on the Republican side of the aisle—Mr. SCHOCK—said that we need a clear path to citizenship for workers who are already here. ADAM KINZINGER said that, through commonsense policies, we have the opportunity to grow our economy, and we must work hard to come to an agreement on how to bring undocumented workers out of the shadows.

JOHN SHIMKUS said that we have to address the 12 million undocumented immigrants who are already here by moving them legally into the workforce. The Chamber of Commerce, the AFL–CIO, growers, farmworkers, and faith groups across the spectrum are all urging us to pass immigration reform; yet, frankly, we are not addressing it in any way even on this. I think,

surely, we could have gotten a consensus on the ENLIST Act, but it was itself rejected.

I would urge the majority leader, Mr. Speaker, to perhaps give us some sense beyond ''we don't trust the President.'' We know that hardly anybody on that side of the aisle trusts the President.

If the issue is simply trusting the President, let's shut down. Let's not do anything, which, essentially, is what we have done, as a matter of fact, as I say that. Let's not do anything. Let's not pass any new laws. That is not what the American people expect, but that seems to be the premise.

Now, presumably, we passed the Defense Authorization Act because we expect the President to pass it; but if we simply don't trust him, why pass the bill?

That is not an excuse. That is not a reason. In fact, it is a derogation of our responsibility, Mr. Speaker. I would hope that the majority leader would tell me when, if ever, we are going to address the broken system that he and I agree is a broken system.

I yield to my friend, the majority leader.

Mr. CANTOR. The gentleman knows that I am one who consistently says that the system of immigration is broken. I have also said that I am mindful and support the fact that, if a kid who is brought here by his or her parents—unbeknownst to that child—has never lived anywhere else or remembers living anywhere else and wants to serve in our military, he should be able to do so. It is my position that that child should have a path to citizenship after such service.

However, the NDAA bill was not the appropriate place for the discussion on that issue. I have been consistent with that position over the last several weeks and months. I remain committed to what the intent of the ENLIST Act is trying to achieve. There are Members involved who are working on the necessary language to see whether it is possible for us to move forward on that measure.

Beyond that, on the issue of the comprehensive bill that the gentleman refers to, he knows—we have stood here many times before—we are opposed to the Senate bill. I have had discussions with the White House, and I continue to say we are opposed to a comprehensive bill.

Whether the gentleman likes or doesn't like the fact that there is not a lot of trust on the part of this House or of this majority in the President, frankly, it is about the American people. What they have seen is unilateral action being taken by this White House and the President on bills passed by Congress.

It is, at a minimum, frustrating for us in the House to watch what goes on and the flouting of Congress—the ignoring of Congress—when it comes to decisions made to implement a law according to what the White House thinks it is, not according to the statute. This is the fundamental problem, and I have expressed that myself to the President.

If we could see our way towards discrete, incremental steps toward strengthening law enforcement at the border and toward doing things like the green card on the diploma or the ENLIST Act without the introduction of the insistence of a comprehensive attempt, then I believe we may be able to make progress, but to this day, it has been my way or the highway, all or nothing. That is not going to work.

I have told that to the gentleman publicly and privately, Mr. Speaker, and I would just say so again.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for his comments.

Very frankly, we can't impose my way or the highway in this House, Mr. Speaker, as you well know. The Republicans are in the majority. We can't impose any way. We can simply ask for some way for it to be brought to the floor. It can be brought forth individually, the ENLIST Act.

I would ask, Mr. Speaker, whether the majority leader believes the ENLIST Act is going to be brought to the floor. I would ask him whether any of the bills that are passed out of the Republican Judiciary Committee are going to be brought to the floor. They passed out over 6 months ago.

A bill out of the Homeland Security Committee to deal with border security passed out of the committee some 4-plus months ago, and it has not been brought to this floor.

We are not looking for my way. We are looking for any way—some way. We are looking for a path—a way—to get to addressing this issue, and there has been no way. He is correct, but it is not we who are imposing no way.

It is the failure to bring a bill to the floor, Mr. Speaker, that we can consider. In a transparent way, the House can work its will, which, of course, was the commitment that Speaker BOEHNER made when he became the Speaker of this House.

That is the problem. It is not what the President does, and it is not what the Senate does, but it is what we are not doing on this House floor, and that is bringing options to the floor, so that we can vote up or down, and maybe we will lose.

There were four bills out of the Judiciary Committee that we didn't largely support, but the Republican leadership on the committee supported those bills, and the majority of the Republicans supported those bills. They are not to the floor. So it is a question of not doing it your way. We are doing it no way.

I continue to be frustrated when the majority leader, Mr. Speaker, responds to me that, somehow, they don't trust the President. Presumably, they trust their committee chairs. Presumably, you trust yourselves, and presumably, if you bring something to the floor, you trust that you will vote the way you believe as we will do on this side of the aisle.

Maybe some on our side of the aisle will agree with you, and maybe some on your side will agree with us, but if we don't bring it to the floor, it is no way, and we are not going to get much progress there.

There are two other issues I will discuss briefly, unless the majority leader wants to respond to that. The Voting Rights Act, he and I have had brief discussions about that. I know he has expressed himself publicly.

Mr. Leader, is there any possibility of our making progress on the Voting Rights Act between now and the August break?

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the majority leader.

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, as the gentleman knows, I am committed and remain committed to upholding the very sacred right to vote for all American citizens, and I see the Voting Rights Act as something that has historically afforded that ability.

The recent actions of the Supreme Court have raised some issues, obviously, in the minds of some in the House. We have been working with our Members on our side of the aisle, as well as on the gentleman's.

I know the Senate is undertaking hearings across the way, and it is still my hope to try and resolve this in an acceptable manner. I do know that there are still a lot of differences and that the gentleman knows as well, but I remain committed, again, to making sure that we uphold that sacred right to vote for all American citizens.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the majority leader for his continuing positive comments with respect to assuring that every American not only has the right to vote, but has the access to vote and that we facilitate one's casting of that vote.

I look forward and my office looks forward to continuing to work with him towards that objective. Time, of course, is of the essence on this, so I am hopeful that we can move forward sooner, rather than later.

The last subject I would bring up—and we have also had brief discussions on this, Mr. Speaker, with the majority leader—is that the Export-Import Bank authority will expire in the not too distant future.

We believe on this side of the aisle that this is a very, very important piece of legislation. We have an agenda called Make It In America. One of the things that is important for the Make It in America agenda is to encourage and to facilitate the exporting of goods overseas. We think the Export-Import Bank does exactly that.

I would ask the majority leader, Mr. Speaker, if there is any prospect of bringing that to the floor. I might observe that the majority leader and I worked very, very closely and effectively, in a bipartisan way, when we authorized the Export-Import Bank the last time. I am hopeful that we can continue to do the same.

I yield to my friend, the majority leader.

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I would say to the gentleman that I have said to the chairman of the Financial Services Committee, Mr. HENSARLING, that I will look to him and his leadership on that issue as the committee works its way through the varying issues and the Member positions that are out there, and I will look to see what the Financial Services Committee does.

Mr. HOYER. I understand that comment. I also understand that the chairman of the Financial Services Committee is opposed to the Export-Import Bank. He has said that publicly.

So I would hope, at some point in time, again, that the majority of the House could work its will because I do not believe that the chairman of the Financial Services Committee represents the majority of this House in this instance.

Therefore, I am hopeful that we can move forward and that I can work with the majority leader's office, as we did with the last authorization, to reach that objective.

Mr. Speaker, unless the majority leader asks me to yield, I yield back the balance of my time.

HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 3 p.m. tomorrow; when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet at noon on Tuesday, May 27, 2014; and when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet at noon on Wednesday, May 28, 2014, for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business.

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

There was no objection.

NATIONAL SULLIVAN CUP ARMOR COMPETITION

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

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate four members of the Pennsylvania National Guard who placed among the top four teams in the national Sullivan Cup armor competition, held on May 11–15 of this year, in Fort Benning, Georgia.

Sergeant First Class Bryan Bailey, Sergeant Michael Schultz, Specialist Timothy Humpal, and Specialist Zachary Zondory represented the 3–103rd Armor Battalion, 55th Armored Brigade, 28th Infantry Division, who came in fourth out of only 17 U.S. Army, Marine Corps, and Canadian tank crews.

The toughness, skill level, and experience demonstrated by our Guard soldiers is further proof that the 55th Armored Brigade not only is one of the elite brigades in the entire U.S. Army, but that the Guard is—absolutely is—ready, trained, and capable.

□ 1245

REBUILDING THE VA

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

Mr. BARROW of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to continue to call for action to address problems we face at VA clinics all across the country. This issue hits home for the folks I represent in Georgia, where three veterans have died and many more have seen their condition worsen because of inadequate health care.

This isn't going to go anywhere until we get serious about holding someone accountable. Regrettably, that should start with Secretary Eric Shinseki. General Shinseki has done a tremendous service for this country, and while he has tried to do some goods things at the VA during his time, other veterans aren't getting the most basic benefits they have earned.

Literally, months have passed, and to this day no one has been held responsible, no solution has been found, and getting information from the VA is like pulling teeth.

The folks I represent want answers, and Secretary Shinseki stepping down should be the start of a nationwide effort to rebuild the VA, because that is what our veterans deserve.

HOUSE PASSAGE OF MEPS ACT

(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 am proud to say that last night, the language that Representative TIM RYAN of Ohio and I introduced in March, H.R. 4305, the Medical Evaluation Parity for Servicemembers Act, or MEPS Act, was included as an amendment in the National Defense Authorization Act. This bipartisan legislation passed the full House this morning.

While our military has made great strides to address issues of mental illness, large gaps exist in this response that we must fill. Given these challenges and in light of the tragic events such as those at Fort Hood, we must and can do more.

Today, military recruits must undergo comprehensive physical evaluations. But what some are surprised or even shocked to hear is that currently no similar exam exists for mental competency.

The MEPS Act institutes a preliminary mental health assessment for all incoming recruits. This bill will offer our military an important tool and move us to a more comprehensive and effective approach to suicide prevention and detection.

I applaud my colleagues for joining us in support of this bill and encourage the Senate to take action on this important reform.

NATIONAL MARITIME DAY

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

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Maritime Day, an opportunity for us to celebrate and salute our mariners who have protected this great Nation.

Since the early days of this Nation, the United States Merchant Marine has been the foundation of our economic security, serving as our ''fourth arm of defense'' in both peace and war. They have been essential in bringing food to the world's hungry and delivering supplies to our brave men and women overseas in times of war. They have done so much for our Nation.

Today, on National Maritime Day, we take this opportunity to honor their service and sacrifice.

Over 200,000 Merchant Mariners served in World War II, and more than 8,000 lost their lives in enemy waters, a rate higher than any uniformed service. Unfortunately, these brave men were not eligible for the GI Bill that helped millions of veterans go to college and buy a home.

That is why I have introduced the Honoring our World War II Merchant Mariners Act of 2013. This bill would provide just $1,000 in monthly benefits to the nearly 10,000 surviving World War II Mariners.

I would like to give a shout out to the American Merchant Marine Veterans Memorial Committee in San Pedro that is honoring our Merchant Mariners.

DOTCOM ACT

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank Chairman MCKEON for supporting Congressmen SHIMKUS, ROKITA, and me, in support of adding the DOTCOM Act as an amendment to our National Defense Authorization Act.

I support a free market multistakeholder model of Internet governance. In a perfect world, ICANN AND IANA would be free of government control and fully privatized. However, we don't live in a perfect world, and we know full well that China and Russia have a different view of perfection and are willing to aggressively pursue it. Their end goal is to have ICANN and IANA functions migrate to the U.N.'s ITU.

Passage of today's NDAA and inclusion of DOTCOM gives the multistakeholder model a chance to succeed, but it does so with congressional oversight. However, if we begin to sense—even for a minute—that that model isn't working, I will be the first Member to call on this body to taken stronger actions.

Again, I thank the chairman and my colleagues for bringing this about today.

ENDING THE WAR IN AFGHANISTAN

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, after more than a decade of war, the loss of 2,178 American heroes, thousands seriously injured, and the expenditure of nearly $2 trillion, we must end our military presence in Afghanistan now, safely bring our troops home, and begin to focus on the urgent challenges we face here in America.

A sustainable, long-term peace can only be accomplished when the people of Afghanistan assume responsibility for their own security.

Yesterday, our colleague JIM MCGOVERN offered an amendment that directed the President to rapidly accelerate the transition of U.S. combat operations in Afghanistan to the Afghan government by December, and would have required congressional approval if the President sought to keep U.S. military forces in Afghanistan after that. Unfortunately, we were denied the right to have a debate and vote on this amendment.

We owe the brave men and women in uniform a clear plan to bring them home safely and soon and to end this war now.

After more than 12 years of war and the killing of Osama bin Laden, it is time to end the war in Afghanistan and instead focus our attention on creating jobs, rebuilding our infrastructure, providing care for our veterans, and focusing on the serious fiscal challenges facing our Nation.

HONORING DOUGLAS H. CAREY

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

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my deepest condolences—and those of Florida's 13th Congressional District—to the family, friends, and fellow police officers of Mr. Douglas H. Carey, who tragically lost his life earlier this week.

Officer Carey began his service with the Clearwater Police Department as a patrolman on December 9, 1968. For nearly two decades, he assisted the people of Clearwater as a patrolman, a field training officer, and eventually as a detective. But his retirement from police work in 1987 was hardly the end of service.

Following his retirement, Officer Carey served on the security staff of Morton Plant Hospital. In 2010, he rejoined his brothers and sisters within the police department as a school crossing guard.

Officer Carey lost his life while doing what he loved and what he did best: protecting and serving his community. He was 70 years old.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to honor the life and service today of Officer Carey, who is survived by his loving wife of 42 years, Jean; his son, Brian; his daughter, Toni; and his young grandson, Dylan.

Officer Carey will be greatly missed, but his spirit lives on through the many, many lives he has touched in our community of Pinellas County, Florida.

TOURETTE SYNDROME AWARENESS MONTH

(Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, last week, I had the opportunity to meet with a bright young boy who was diagnosed with Tourette syndrome and is working to bring attention to this disorder. His passion is an inspiration, and I want to share his own words about the importance of raising awareness.

Dear Congressman Luján. My name is Alexander Dennis. I live in Rio Rancho, New Mexico, and am 14 years old.

I grew up with a neurological disorder called Tourette syndrome. It causes me and about 200,000 others in the United States to make sudden movements and uncontrollable sounds. This disorder affects me daily and is a lifelong condition. There is no cure for Tourette syndrome.

I have to live daily with painful neck and full-body jerks. Others with this disorder have different severity levels and different types of movement. It is noticeable to others, but I do not know I am doing the movements sometimes.

There are not many doctors that are experienced with Tourette syndrome, and it took me 4 years to be properly diagnosed.

May 15 through June 15 is Tourette Syndrome Awareness Month, and I am writing to you because I am working to raise awareness to the challenges people face that have this syndrome. Any help that you can give will be greatly appreciated to me and all that suffer from this disorder.

Thank you, Alexander, for your voice and your efforts. I look forward to working with you on this issue.

BUDGET IMPACTS ON OUR MILITARY

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

Mr. NUNNELEE. Mr. Speaker, the most important function of our government is to provide for the common defense. That is why I am pleased that the National Defense Authorization Act blocks the administration's end strength reduction proposal, as well as redistribution of important National Guard aviation assets. But I do have some specific concerns.

Of specific concern of this misguided and shortsighted proposal is the impact on the Mississippi National Guard's 155th Heavy Brigade Combat Team. This unit has a proven history of defending freedom abroad. But recently, when our State was hit by devastating tornados, these were the first responders. They provided vital security and search and rescue. I commend these men and women that make up the 155th and express my concern for the support of their mission.

Congress cannot balance our budget on the backs of the men and women voluntarily serving our country, nor expect their families, who already give so much, to make further sacrifices.

To find areas within our Federal Government to responsibly cut, we must look at all forms of Federal spending, not just the discretionary spending alone.

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, our veterans risked their lives in service of our Nation. When they come home, they deserve to be treated with dignity and respect, especially by those they count on to provide them with essential medical care.

The disturbing reports about the unethical treatment of our military men and women by the VA is not only an affront to those that we count on to protect our freedoms and our liberties, it highlights a systemic lack of accountability, starting at the top and permeating throughout the agency.

Mr. Speaker, no veteran should pass away waiting for the care they need or the benefits that they deserve. The ineptitude of the VA is an affront to the sacrifice of the veterans who are turning to this agency for assistance and the taxpayers whose hard-earned dollars should be funding this worthy cause.

While this week the House took action to empower the VA to rid itself of those who fail to meet their responsibilities with the passage of the Department of Veterans Affairs Management Accountability Act, there is still much work to be done.

I firmly believe that sunlight is the best disinfectant, and I will continue to work to shine a bright light on the situation until we can assure that the VA provides the service and respect that our veterans deserve.

HISTORIC PRAYER SERVICE

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the inspiring prayer service between Pope Francis and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew this Sunday at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem.

These two spiritual leaders of 1.5 billion Christians worldwide are celebrating the 50th anniversary of the first historic meeting in Jerusalem between their predecessors: Pope Paul VI and Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras in 1964.

Sunday's meeting in the Holy Land serves to recognize mutual respect and admiration between the two churches that was reignited 50 years ago. It is fitting that it takes place at the birthplace of Christianity: Jerusalem.

I commend the leadership of Pope Francis and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, who both glorify God and demonstrate that Christianity is characterized by love, peace, and compassion.

HONORING OUR VETERANS

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, all that we do and all that America does is owed to the greatness of our Constitution and to men and women whom we will honor this coming Monday, Memorial Day.

I call today upon Americans, wherever they may be, to stop for a moment to honor them.

A few years ago, I passed unanimous legislation on this floor to honor all of those who had ever served in combat. But we honor those who fell in the line of duty. This coming week, we will remember them, as we should every year.

As I go home, I will be visiting one of my veterans hospitals to be reminded of those who still stand, and to commit that we will fix every problem that denies or undermines the health care system of our veterans.

I have introduced the Heroes Act to ensure that veterans who have gained many good skills in service can equate those skills to civilian work, that they are treated with respect and dignity as managers and leaders, because that is what they were when they served in the United States military.

And so we honor our fallen soldiers and their families. We will gather today as Americans this weekend. We will stand united under the flag, saying thank you, for you have told all of us that freedom is not free.

□ 1300

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT AND CURRENT EVENTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to comment about the work done on the National Defense Authorization Act. I know Chairman MCKEON has done a tremendous amount of work. I know, from dealing with him during this work on the defense budget, it has been extremely difficult for him.

I remain concerned where we have an administration that has kept our people in Afghanistan with less than favorable rules of engagement, where we have people in harm's way and constantly being called on to be alert, be in positions where they may be in harm's way; and, yet, the authorization ends up being $45 billion less than the President's own projection for fiscal year 2014 budget request, and $30.7 billion less than that, that was enacted for fiscal year 2014 in the NDAA Public Law 113–66.

Back in the summer of 2011, I told our leadership that the deficit was a major problem, of course, as all of our conference realizes, as those on the other side of the aisle used to talk about until they got into the majority and blew the lid off the deficit.

To raise the debt ceiling, set up a supercommittee that I knew was going to fail, said it was going to fail because the Senate Democrats would never allow an agreement because they wanted to be able to blame Republicans for not getting a deal.

The mainstream media always buys whatever they said, even when they shut down the government, as HARRY REID did last September 30th, by refusing to take up even the most extreme compromises that this House was willing to make.

So they know they will get coverage from the mainstream media, and even some amazing examples of complete abandonment of any type of journalistic integrity. They knew they would be protected.

So they did refuse to allow an agreement. Even when Senators—Republican Senators reached out, indications were they thought they could get a deal, but I knew they were not going to allow the supercommittee to reach an agreement, no matter how far they bent over backwards, and that is what happened.

That meant the sequestration would occur. I had no problem with the amount of cuts in the sequestration. I had a problem with the number one job of the Federal Government, being to provide for the common defense, taking the biggest devastating hit in the sequestration. That was the problem.

So, because of that, I am still very concerned about the massive cuts to our defense when we are more hated than ever, trusted less than ever. Our previous friends are now reaching out to China and Russia because they can't trust us.

In trips abroad—I know the administration doesn't like Members of Congress to go abroad because we end up talking directly to people and finding out what they really think, so we don't get indirect misrepresentation, and you find out around the world, people don't trust this administration.

Our allies are saying: Are we going to be the next ally that you throw away, as you have been doing in recent years under this administration?

As I have said before, the elderly African in West Africa who told me how excited they were when we elected our first African American President, but ever since he had been President, he said, the United States keeps getting weaker and weaker, and you have got to stop. Please tell the people in Washington to stop allowing the United States to get weaker.

As Christians, they knew, they said, where they would go when this life was over, but their hope, he said, for a more safe and free life here, even for a West African, would be when the United States does not get weaker, but stands against tyranny and stands against any threat.

Like Boko Haram, that threatens innocent Christians anywhere, it will ultimately be a threat to Christians everywhere.

I am also very concerned, as one who believes, as Abraham Lincoln says, as is inscribed in the north wall of the Lincoln Memorial, as part of his second inaugural address, that, as he quoted from scripture:

> The judgments of the Lord are just and righteous altogether.

I am very concerned that, when our Nation is the most powerful Nation in the world, at the time when Christian persecutions, by number—not necessarily by percentage, but by number—are probably the greatest they have ever been in the history of the world, since Jesus was on earth, and we do nothing except watch the persecutions grow and grow, there will ultimately be some accountability if, as Abraham Lincoln said, as he and I believe, the judgments of the Lord are just and righteous altogether.

When someone is given much, of them, much is expected. We have an obligation. We have been put in a position where we can stand up for righteousness.

It did take a while for this Nation to get to the point where the Constitution meant exactly what it said, but what helped us get there was what was originally in the Declaration of Independence, a belief that we are endowed by our Creator, not endowed by government, not endowed by a monarch, but we are endowed by our Creator with certain unalienable rights.

When we fail to acknowledge that Creator, when we fail to stand up for those who acknowledge the Creator, when we fail to stand up and provide for the common defense, then there will be a price to pay.

Israel is feeling it. The mainstream media doesn't talk about it. Israel doesn't want to be considered a whiner, but they are being constantly under attack from rockets. Why? Because they are Jews and because they are in the Middle East, in the same location that was called the Promised Land where, around 1,600 years or so before Muhammad lived, King David was ruling in the land where they now are, and in the location, in Hebron, for example, where he ruled the first 7 years as King of Israel.

Some say, well, clearly, that is not Israeli land. People that worship Muhammad that came along 1,600 years after Christ—I'm sorry—after King

David was ruling in that town or 600 years or so after Christ, then, surely, they have a better claim; yet we tell Israel that they have to constantly be giving up and even to have our Secretary of State saying that they are guilty of apartheid, they are risking that guilt if they don't do everything that our Secretary of State says, where he has previously warned that, if they don't do what Secretary Kerry said, they may bring another wave of murder upon themselves. It sounded like a threat.

There are consequences for leaders who put our friends in jeopardy, and for those that think, well, just because we have leaders making bad statements, making bad decisions, doesn't mean it will reflect on us in the country, but for those who believe what is in the Bible, as the huge majority did, of our Founders, those who wrote translations of the Bible, those who taught Sunday school—one of the Founders started the Sunday school movement in America.

It is amazing the strength of ties. Even though some teach today that Ben Franklin was a Deist, his statements make clear that was not the case. As he, himself, said and then recorded in his own handwriting of the speech he gave, he said:

> I have lived, sir, a long time, but the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth. God governs in the affairs of men, and if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without his notice, is it possible an empire could rise without His aid?

Franklin said to the Constitutional Convention, as he went on:

> We have been assured, sir, in the sacred writing that, unless the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it.

He said:

> I also firmly believe that without His concurring aid, we shall succeed in our political building no better than the builders of Babel.

When God was telling Hosea why he was mad at the Children of Israel, I looked at different translations. One basically had him saying: because they have chosen leaders who are not my choice.

A Nation is responsible for the leaders they select, and it doesn't matter that John Kerry was rejected by the Nation to be the national spokesperson and national President because, when he is Secretary of State and he makes statements that hurt our dearest allies, then we, as a Nation, will be accountable for his missteps and mistakes in judgment.

We have an obligation to demand better from our leaders. It is a scandal with regard to the Veterans Administration, and for anyone to stand up and say, wow, I had no idea that these problems were going on, stretches the bounds of credibility when that same person said, back in 2008, in condemnation of the Bush administration, that they were not doing enough for our veterans, and condemned the Bush administration and made clear that: when I get in office, I will clear up these problems, I will take care of our veterans.

So as a former judge, those statements—prior statements against interest—would be allowed into evidence to show that something that was said yesterday was not truthful because the mental awareness was shown in 2008, was also shown by statements in 2009, 2010, and then we find out there was a document reflecting that there were these problems with the Veterans Administration.

Our veterans deserve better. I was in the Army for 4 years. I don't deserve better. I never saw combat.

I still think we should have, in 1979—I still feel guilty that, because we were not sent to respond at all to an act of war, in 1979, that thousands of Americans have died because we didn't take a stand in '79, so they got stronger and stronger and stronger until they have gotten to the place that the Taliban takes over Afghanistan.

□ 1315

You have a renegade regime in Iran that President Carter welcomed in, the Ayatollah Khomeini, as a man of peace. And, of course, it makes sense that the policies of this administration are as they are, when you have someone who is a featured speaker at the great tribute to Ayatollah Khomeini as the man of vision and peace.

Well, he is one of the top advisers, even as I speak, at the Department of Homeland Security. He is giving advice, as are others who were named as being members of the Muslim Brotherhood by a periodical in Egypt in December of 2012 in which they were bragging about the top officials in the Obama administration who are members of the Muslim Brotherhood.

Perhaps that explains why this administration has remained so loyal to the Muslim Brotherhood abroad, such that moderate Muslims, as you travel abroad, ask you: Why are you supporting your enemy? The Muslim Brotherhood wants to eliminate everything but radical Islam in America and in the world. Why are you helping them? They are your enemy. They are behind the attacks that have been made on the United States. Why are you helping them?

Mr. Speaker, in Libya, where a former terrorist supporter had reigned since 2003—and, as some Israelis had said: He was the best help you had, besides us, on identifying and eliminating radical Islam and terrorism, but yet you took him out. And we did that with our air cover and the provision of weapons to rebels that we knew had al Qaeda in them. It turns out that they were far stronger than we knew, which was why some of us were saying don't be helping the rebels in Libya. We know they have got al Qaeda in them. Yet we helped them.

As you travel abroad, you find people saying: You are still helping your enemy. We are worried you are going to turn on us next. You turn on your allies. You punish your allies, and you reward your enemies. What kind of foreign policy is that? It never works. You will not win over people that hate you by giving them money and arms. They don't think you are a wonderful country because you have given them money and arms. They know you are crazy and you need to be wiped off the planet because you don't deserve to be a superpower. You are too stupid. And you give your people too much freedom, which allows them to choose some other religion than radical Islam.

Moderate Muslims around the world do not want radical Islam reigning over them, and that is why the people of Egypt rose up. And if this administration would do anything to show a powerful support for the nearly double the millions of people that allegedly voted for Morsi to be President, that came out and signed a petition, the two or three times as many millions came to the street demanding his removal as he said voted for him. There were fraud allegations. But from talking to the Egyptians, apparently Morsi had made it clear that if anybody objected to his win of the election, they would, as they said, ''burn Egypt down.''

The people who are in charge in Egypt don't want radical Islam's return. But when you talk to them, you find out that one of their biggest problems—well, two of their biggest problems—is on their west, in the eastern area of Libya, since this administration made sure Qadhafi was eliminated. Now terrorist training camps, like the Taliban had in Afghanistan, are now in Libya. And they come in and out of Egypt. And because of this administration's support for Morsi, he was able to militarize and weaponize the Sinai like it had never been weaponized before, making it more of a threat to Israel and making it more of a threat to the lovers of peace in Egypt.

There are consequences, even for those in this country who object to what the administration has done when they don't rise up and use their voices to make clear to this administration, through elections and through vocal objections, that they are making a huge mistake, and if they don't support lovers of liberty and Christian allies and Jewish allies that there will be a great amount to pay in the next election. And when that is made clear, I find my friends across the aisle get very responsive to the American people because—apparently, something that is a truth in America, as in other places—when someone is elected to a position they pursued, they like to stay in that position.

Some of us wonder at times if it is worth it. But as I have been told before: You have got to stay; this is where the fight is.

Well, I would also submit the fight is across America, for people to wake up, stop the apathy, and make it clear to those in this administration, to those in charge, that you are not going to stand for the kind of things that are

going on. And when it is made clear that we will not, as a Nation, tolerate what this administration has been allowing and looking the other way on, in the Veterans Administration, then things will change. But not until then. And when it is made clear to this administration that ObamaCare is a threat to seniors—it did cut $716 billion from Medicare, which means they are not going to get the health care they need—when you are spending billions of dollars to hire IRS agents and navigators, more bureaucrats, then that is billions of dollars that will not be saving the lives of people that need lifesaving medications, need lifesaving procedures. Americans have got to wake up and demand better; and when they do, they will get it.

But I also want to touch on the USA FREEDOM Act, as it was labeled. I had an amendment. Though I applauded the work that was done by my friend from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) to negotiate an agreement, I still had the same concern I had back in 2005 and 2006 as a freshman. At that time, I brought it to the attention of the Gonzales Justice Department. I brought it to the attention of the Bush administration that I am concerned about this part in the PATRIOT Act where it says, like in section 215, that you can go after anybody in ''an investigation to obtain foreign intelligence information not concerning a United States person or to protect against international terrorism.''

So in both of those cases, they have to involve a foreign entity, a foreign agent, a foreign country, a foreign group of some kind, international terrorism. Those have to be involved for the PATRIOT Act to apply because as, apparently, Congress was told when the PATRIOT Act was passed back in desperation after 9/11/2001, we have got to protect against international terrorism, foreign agents, people who are dealing with foreign agents. That is what it was for.

So this third part concerned me because it says, or to protect against ''clandestine intelligence activities.'' ''Clandestine intelligence activities,'' what does that mean? It is very vague. And it doesn't say ''foreign.'' It doesn't say ''international.'' And since we were told that we are not allowed to just go gather information about American citizens, then this should have the word ''foreign'' or ''international'' in there.

So my amendment to the USA FREEDOM Act that would amend this put that in there. It dealt with that, the amendment that was fought against by my friend from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER). They had too perfect of a cake that they had baked, and they, as MacArthur Park says, ''may never have the recipe again. Oh, no.'' They couldn't allow a change to their recipe. So they didn't allow any reference to ''foreign'' or ''international.''

And the other references within the PATRIOT Act and the other references, like in 18 U.S.C. 1842 talks about to obtain ''foreign intelligence information not concerning a United States person'' or ''to protect against international terrorism or clandestine intelligence activities.'' So it needed the word ''foreign'' or ''international'' somehow in there. I provided that, but the proponents of the USA FREEDOM Act did not want it in.

Although my amendment originally passed in committee, it was revoted on a voice vote quickly after we were coming back from a vote on the floor and taken out. And although a majority of those in the Rules Committee said that my amendment needed to be in the law to protect it and to protect American citizens, when the rule came out, the rule said that my amendment was not going to be allowed to have a vote.

So I had to vote against the USA FREEDOM Act because this is a gaping hole that allows the Federal Government to go after and spy on American citizens who have no contact with any foreign government, any foreign agent, have no ties at all to international terrorism, haven't necessarily ever even thought about terrorism. But with this, if they can be alleged to have engaged in any type of clandestine intelligence activities, you can go after them and spy on them.

And what does that mean? Well, I have asked the question, and I have not gotten any satisfactory answer—any answer, really. Well, does that mean, if somebody looks over a fence into a Federal enclave, that that is trying to get intelligence and that might invoke this provision of the PATRIOT Act? Or how about if someone mistakenly goes to a Web site, does that invoke this provision that allows you to go after them? And I haven't gotten a good answer, and I haven't been told how this has been applied. I was hoping to get an answer that it has never been used, but I haven't gotten that either.

As a result, I had to vote against the USA FREEDOM Act because I didn't want my name on a bill that leaves a hole this large, allowing the Federal Government to go after American citizens who have never even thought about terrorism and have never had any contact with a foreign agent.

So, Mr. Speaker, I wanted to reiterate again that I think we will suffer if, having been given so much more freedom, more assets than any nation in the history of the world, we do not stand up for Jews and Christians being persecuted around the world.

We have clearly gone to war and lost human life and limb on behalf of protecting Muslims in the world. It is time that we also stood for Christians and Jews around the world.

I never thought I would see anti-Semitism arise in my lifetime like it has. On our college campuses in the name of open-mindedness, they have become anti-Semitic and racist, anti-Israeli. We have got to demand better from this administration, and we have got to stand up for those Jews and Christians who are being persecuted and oppressed in greater numbers than ever before.

And with that, I yield back the balance of my time.

VETERANS' BENEFITS SCANDAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA) is recognized for the balance of the hour as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, this is a conversation that has been a long time coming. I am in my first term here in the House of Representatives, and soon after becoming a Federal Representative, it became very apparent to me that our veterans in California, in our districts, and all across the country really need a lot more of our help, as Members of Congress, as our staff both in our districts and even in D.C. can do for us for the veterans.

You have seen the revelations here lately that have finally gotten the attention of the American public, with what has been going on in Arizona, previously Pittsburgh with Legionnaires' disease, and the many other revelations about how poorly our veterans are being treated in this country once they have served for us and have come home, expecting the things that they were promised before they made that service for us.

□ 1330

For example, revelations about secret waiting lists in the Veterans Administration as we have seen in Arizona. They have shocked most Americans here in recent weeks.

Today, I speak out on an even bigger crisis within the VA system, and that is the monumental failure of the Oakland, California, Veterans Benefits Administration.

Most of our veterans must run through this nightmarish gauntlet before they can even hope to be added to the secret waiting list at a Veterans Administration medical facility.

Here on the floor we talk a lot about claims backlogs often, and we have seen mountains of paper files. Our inevitable solution always seems to be to give them more money to fix the problem. Well, the Congress, with the American taxpayers' dollars, has funded VA pretty adequately. We have made an effort here recently to try to help catch up with the backlog with the funding required. We were then issued cheerful responses of decreases in processing times that are systematically manipulated by upper level officials at VA in order to show progress to make us go away.

Right now, the Oakland office boasts that they have no claims over 125 days old. In reality, tens of thousands of the Oakland VA are trapped in a cycle many veterans call ''delay, deny and wait until they die.''

One main trick is to omit key information that would help the veteran in his or her claim, whether it be the exams, timelines, what have you, then deny the claim, ship it off for 2 or 3 years' worth of review and appeal process. In the meantime, we will deem it processed.

The management is more interested in the open number of claims stats on the reports than processing them accurately or in a timely fashion, and then reaping bonuses by posting a savings to the government—to the taxpayers—by denying these claims and these payments.

How many veterans are homeless because their claims for benefits have been sitting on a cart or in a janitor's closet or in the hallway by the director's office for years—or even decades? Benefits that would help them to not be homeless, to have shelter, to have better health, to even be in a place where they could then seek employment and be in a much better way?

How many veterans have suffered and died waiting years for their claim to be handled so they could seek medical treatment? Some of it needs to be very timely to have exams and treatment.

How many of our veterans have given up hope and committed suicide out of desperation and despair that comes with years of waiting, because they don't feel like anybody cares about them anymore and that they don't have any value to our society?

Yet, on weekends like we have coming up, we glorify them—as we should, those that have fallen—on Memorial Day and later in the year on Veterans Day. Yet this is what our government does to them. We know that we have veterans that take this ultimate step of suicide. We know they exist.

I submit that many of our Nation's veterans are part of a backlog that exceeds the most extraordinary numbers we currently have on file. For example, for this past year, my own office has been assisting for a full year a veteran with a 36-year-old claim. Due to management practices—if you call them practices—at the Oakland Regional Office, this veteran still suffers this day from not having his claim properly handled. Remember, he is not even eligible yet after 36 years to make it on to the secret waiting list for medical care, as in Arizona, to then finally graduate to the real list. Hasn't even made that in 36 years yet.

The Veterans Affairs Department's mission declares:

> Our values are more than just words—they affect outcomes in our daily interactions with veterans and eligible beneficiaries and with each other. Taking the first letter of each word—integrity, commitment, advocacy, respect, excellence—creates a powerful acronym, ''I CARE,'' that reminds each VA employee of the importance of their role in this Department. These core values come together as five promises we make as individuals and as an organization to those we serve.

Now, let me underscore we know there are many, many very hard-working and caring VA employees out there that want to get results for the veterans. Many of them have been veterans themselves. So this isn't to impugn all of them. This is about upper management—on a topic that has been even one the President has focused on this week—not getting the job done and trying to snow us here in the Congress and the American people about the results they have been claiming.

Thanks to a growing group of employees who understands these core values I just mentioned and now feel empowered to step forward because they see there are people who really want to get behind them, I have been given a number of multiple signed, sworn statements by employees on what is happening behind the curtain at the Oakland Veterans Benefits Administration office.

Right here on this easel is a statement I received from one of them in the letter. It is just one of the few examples that I will read for you:

> I am an employee of the Veterans Administration Regional Office in Oakland. I took a photo on May 19, 2014, showing stacks of paper piled on a cart. This paper is actually informal claims going back to the late '90s and 2000s. These claims were not reviewed until November of 2012. These claims continue, to this day, to be a pile of paper on a cart that no one wants to deal with. I was part of the initial project reviewing these claims. My initials are on them from November, 2012.

Again, this is an employee from the Oakland center.

> Congressman LaMalfa, I want you to know that I am a proud Navy veteran of 10-plus years and looked at the opportunity to work at the Veterans Administration as a chance to really help veterans. In the 5 years I have worked there, I know I have helped people, but there is so much more that could be done. The management at the Oakland Regional Office is concerned about the numbers and not the veterans. Terminal and homeless veterans wait for too long for the help that they need. I believe that there are a lot of wonderful employees that truly want to help but are being directed by management to worry about number control.
>
> What I don't understand is why they can't be more transparent about the number of claims and the need for more resources. We need more employees to do the job; we don't need new carpet and desks like they just gave us when veterans die waiting for us to do our job. This job is has literally made me sick. I go to work knowing that during my day, I will have to help the veterans in a low-key way and not what I am being told is needed to get the veterans numbers down. This makes me physically ill. I think about all the letters begging for help and we seem to do so little.
>
> I believe Oakland needs new eyes. I believe we need more oversight. I believe far too many veterans die each day while we worry about what our numbers look like. These veterans go home with me each night in my thoughts and regrets of the day because we seem to do so little.

This is a small sample of what is happening here, and we have additional statements, as well, about what is going on inside the Oakland VA, and maybe an example of many of them across the country.

In this photograph is an example of the files. Right now these are waiting in the hallway, and before that, they were found in a broom closet where they had been stashed for years. Some of these claims go back to the mid-1990s, untouched, only recently discovered, yet they still get walked past and not handled. Stacks of them, the filing cabinet.

The next letter is from an Oakland VA employee—a real employee. We are keeping their names back for now because we want people to know that we are going to help them if they come forward with this information:

> In November 2012, myself and several other individuals were given a special project to work. The project consisted of approximately 14,000 claims dating back to 1994 that had never been worked. These claims are considered informal claims because they did not come in on a prescribed form. Informal claims are worked differently. A letter is sent with the correct form later for the veteran to fill out, and when the form is returned, the claim is actually opened to work. If the form is returned within 1 year, if the veteran receives compensation, their benefits then would go back to the date of his first correspondence, the informal.
>
> We were given these claims to analyze, and very quickly we began to realize that these were not all informal claims but actionable ones, not to mention how old some of them were. So many of the letters that came in were from veterans, or their surviving spouses, who were begging for help at the end of their life, and they never got a reply because they had died by the time we got them. I went home so many nights crying because a veteran or widow had begged for help, and we stuck the request in a four-drawer lateral cabinet—kind of like so—with 14,000 other ones. Each day we were required to report back to our supervisor on the numbers and how they were broken down. If the veteran had already died, it is considered non-actionable and put aside. Whether it actually made it to the veteran's folder is unknown to me.

Again, this is an Oakland employee:

> If it was an informal claim and the claimant was still alive, those were put in another pile to eventually review again and maybe do the letters. If the document received came from a veteran who had already filed a formal claim, then these would be considered actual claims and be reviewed by another person before being acted upon. So each day we would report our numbers and separate out the documents. We began to speak up about how old these were and why hadn't we acted sooner on them, and we were very quickly removed from the project for speaking out.
>
> These claims were within feet of the assistant service center manager; she literally walked by them each day, and yet they remained untouched until November 2012. Word was that a staff member from VA headquarters had actually been the one to find them while she was there doing an onsite inspection. And yet several long-term employees have told me that management knew they were there. Either way, most were very old.
>
> I don't know how many veterans or spouses died before we responded, but, I personally know of several hundreds that got nothing, and the thought of us doing nothing to help these men and women in their most desperate times is haunting to me.

Again, signed by an Oakland VA employee.

A third letter addressed to me states:

Dear Congressman LaMalf: I cannot thank you enough for the work you and your staff have done—

a big credit to my staff who worked very hard on this—

for the veterans in the northern California area. One particular case should have been decided with the evidence on hand last year. I read the examination today and found that the exams have been in the system, and there has been no action on that claim for what the system states is waiting for the examinations. The information is there, and the rating should be completed based on the evidence on hand. Please keep advocating for the veterans. I cannot thank you enough. I am a veteran myself who served honorably for over 9 years and was not provided the benefits from the VA per the law until I—the veteran who is now an Oakland employee—started working for the DVA myself and found out everything I was not informed on.

□ 1345

I left the U.S. Marine Corps, after serving honorably as a military police K–9 officer and member of the SWAT team. I worked hard and, as a result of my disabilities, required several surgeries and, recently, due to the hostile work environment at work, have become progressively worse.

I have tried to report this to management, but they did not like hearing the truth and started to make my life at work miserable 2 years ago. The news is starting to pick up on what I have tried, myself, to report regarding unethical conduct in the VA. Prior to the news picking up on the real problems at the VA, I have been reporting this information to the Senate and Congress Members in the Bay Area's district.

I have reported this to the VA Office of Inspector General on two different occasions. I have reported this to the GAO. I have reported problems at the Oakland VA to the Federal Labor Relations Office of the General Counsel for 2 years, with no assistance.

I have three EEO claims, with one more in the works, that have not been processed by the VA ethically or morally, according to the applicable laws, up to and including the OEDCA in Washington, D.C.

I am begging you to please open a formal investigation into the unethical conduct of the VA Oakland regional office.

The unethical conduct I know of is the fact that the Oakland VA management has not been held accountable for the misconduct or several felony violations that has been recently reported by me.

Since coming out as a whistleblower, I have had many employees discretely discuss some extremely disturbing information with me regarding what is actually going on in the VA and why the management is trying to stop me at all costs.

The unethical conduct goes far beyond my employment difficulties at the VA Oakland regional office. I have come to find out that the Oakland regional office is not only lying to Congress about their numbers, but the Oakland office is hiding claims that were received in 1999.

I have seen these claims in the office as late as May 20, 2014. These claims should be in the claims files if there is not action because the veteran has died in the process, not still sitting around the office for over 15 years.

There are a number of claims that are over a year old. There are many more that have been ''lost in transit'' to the scan sites, often in some other State. The VA is ethically challenged, but this is unacceptable, to lose a veteran's claim and not tell them or try to make the situation right, just ignore them and hope they go away or to not process a claim properly for over 15 years.

This is a real letter from a real Oakland VA employee. It continues:

The claims have been sitting for over a year, after having been screened last by a group of VSRs and no action taken because they were sitting in someone's office, then in some storage closet by the director's office on the 17th floor of the Oakland Federal building.

Again, I have made multiple statements to many agencies of the U.S. Government in hopes that the illegal and unprofessional conduct from the management would stop, but the parties who I have reported to this, with ample amounts of evidence provided, have explained that the corruption cannot be stopped without some sort of ethical investigation conducted.

Please initiate some type of ethical investigation by an agency that is not going to try to cover up what they find, rather report the truth and do the right thing.

I have been a law enforcement officer in the U.S. Marine Corps, and I know that what is going on at the Oakland regional office with me and other veterans. It is wrong per the law, not my opinion.

Please, Congressman LaMalfa, assist us in whatever you can do. The veterans deserve better.

Semper Fi, USMC Disabled.

This is what it looks like. There are unfinished files sitting in the hallways, previously found in a broom closet.

Lastly, in a letter from yet another person who stepped forward when they finally saw somebody fighting back at different levels, our Veterans' Committee and other offices around the country, they see the shame being brought upon our veterans and, with that, our country.

This letter says:

There are huge amounts of these claims that are quite old, but because they are reclassified, are not worked expeditiously. Lots of these claims go back several years, but they are being worked as if they are only 2 or 3 years old because they are in a different group, and that is not considered a priority.

A lot of these claims, the 930 series, are review claims created because they found something wrong that we did. Usually, it is not logging in evidence in time before the claim is closed.

I personally logged in evidence on May 16, 2014, that was received by our regional office and date-stamped August 1, 2013. The claim had been closed months before, but because this evidence had not been logged in, it had also not been considered in the decision, which was a denial of benefits. Things like this happen every day.

Now, we open a review claim that will not get worked for months and, sometimes, a year or more. We have veterans that are terminal and asking for aid and attendants, and you would think that these claims, along with the older date of claims of the homeless, would be worked first, but a lot of the times, they are not.

If the regional office can do several easy claims, like hearing loss, tinnitus, then they will do that because then more claims are taken off the books, even though these may not be the veterans with the most need.

So, there, you see manipulation of statistics, manipulation of timing, making the numbers look better, and not making the veterans feel better.

I hope that image is one that will stay with you, all who have seen this or will see this all across our country. Much more needs to be done, not just pretty words, not just press conferences, not we will look into it or that we will throw money at it.

Congress does stand prepared to ensure that there is adequate funding to do it right, but we also expect that the dollars that taxpayers send to the government are used wisely and efficiently and not for bonuses for people that are acting not just ineptly, but, I believe, corruptly.

It is time to stop rewarding this bad behavior with more accountability. Americans have seen these stories. These horror stories are demanding a fix for the veterans health care system and their benefits. We must also demand an end to the phony claims, phony numbers, decades of waiting. It isn't just ineptness or miscues or errors. Someone is very deliberate and, I think, worthy of prosecution as fraud.

I thank those VA employees who have been bold enough to step forward and let us know about what is going on in the backrooms behind the scenes. They are good employees who just want to see veterans served all across the country, so we want to hear more of these stories from anybody who might be watching or see this all across the country.

Contact your own Congressman, contact us, contact whoever will listen and seek remedies that mean something as we celebrate our fallen veterans this weekend. It isn't just about barbecues and skiing and picnics. Let's remember and honor these people.

The system is broken, but it doesn't have to be if we are willing to demand accountability and demand it immediately. That is what I am about, what my office will be about, my staff, but also many of my colleagues that either serve on the Veterans' Affairs Committee or don't.

We will continue to spotlight this and make sure that the stories are heard all across the country, and those who are doing this to our veterans, these criminal acts, ultimately will be held responsible.

So I thank the whistleblowers, those VA employees who do care. We know there are many, many of you and thank you for your effort. God bless our veterans who have suffered and are still waiting and know that you have allies in this place who will see this through and get you the service you deserve.

God bless you all. God bless America.

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

ADDRESSING SENATORS' COMMENTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. VALADAO). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) for 30 minutes.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and privilege to address you here on the floor of the United States House of Representatives, and I come to the floor this afternoon, Mr. Speaker, to address you and bring up the topic of the dialogue that has been—I will say flowing forth on the floor of the United States Senate over the last few weeks.

As I listened to that dialogue and listened to the way they have taken Saul Alinsky's ''Rules for Radicals'' and decided that they are going to implement them and deploy them on the floor of the United States Senate, it occurs to me that when, out of the mouths of people like Senator SCHUMER and Senator REID and Senator DURBIN come these allegations—and sometimes allegations that name and target Members of the House of Representatives, it occurs to me that, when I came to this Congress, Mr. Speaker, in 2003, there was a rule that existed here that prevented a Member of the House of Representatives from naming a United States Senator here on the floor.

It was kind of a shield of protectionism, so that the Senators could not be directly criticized in the dialogue that we have here on the floor.

My good friend and then-Member of Congress, Tom Feeney from Florida, read through the rules, as a good, honest lawyer, newly elected to the United States Congress would, and he saw that rule and wondered: Why can't we utter the name of a United States Senator on the floor of the House of Representatives?

He could come up with no reason why we shouldn't be able to do that, and so he brought an amendment to the rules that struck that prohibition, and thereafter, thanks to then-Congressman Tom Feeney of Orlando, the rule is gone. It was amended, and that is a good thing because, now, I can actually name the people who are attacking me on the floor of the United States Senate, and let you know, Mr. Speaker, what is going on in that other body, that body that constantly calls for bipartisan work and bipartisan cooperation.

This is what I get from Senator CHUCK SCHUMER, New York, May 1, 2014, on the floor of the United States Senate. He decided he would target me and blame me for the things that he believes are failures of the entire House of Representatives.

Here are some of the quotes that CHUCK SCHUMER uttered on that day of May 1 from the floor of the United States Senate. He called me ''an extreme outlier on the issue of immigration reform.''

I would direct CHUCK SCHUMER to the Republican Party platform. You will find there language in the Republican Party platform that supports the position I have long held on immigration, and that position that I hold is this: We need to respect the rule of law. We need to secure our borders. We need to have an immigration policy that is designed to enhance the economic, the social, and the cultural well-being of the United States of America.

It can't be for the Democratic Party of the United States of America because they are so closely aligned—in fact, they have enveloped the entire Progressive Party. The Progressive Party comes to this floor on a regular basis and gives speeches and presents their position.

Their position, at one time, could be found on the Democratic Socialists of America Web site, dsausa.org. There, socialism is celebrated. As Progressives celebrate socialism, they are wrapped up inside the Democratic Party.

We don't adhere to that on my side. We adhere to the rule of law and the Constitution, a secure border, a sovereign United States of America, and a policy for immigration that is designed to enhance the economic, social, and cultural well-being of the United States of America.

We have enough common sense, Mr. Speaker, to know that our country is limited in size and scope. It is a large country, but we cannot be the relief valve for all of the poverty in the world.

There are 7 billion people on the planet, and if they all have good sense, they would all want to live here. We need some of them in those countries to rebuild those countries and establish American principles, so that they can enjoy the prosperity that we enjoy, reconstructed around first principles, in the other countries of the world.

□ 1400

We need to lead the world. We don't need to necessarily bring all the world here to feed the world here in the United States. And so, an extreme outlier, not so. CHUCK SCHUMER represents the extreme outliers, and they are socialists, Marxists, progressives, liberal Democrats. I am sure that one of those labels will be one that he has already embraced, Mr. Speaker.

Second quote, Senator CHUCK SCHUMER of me, STEVE KING:

> The rhetoric of Steve King is beyond the pale. I am certain that the majority of Republicans in the House have their stomachs churn when they see Steve King spew that kind of rhetoric.

That is not exactly collegial dialogue, Mr. Speaker, to see that kind of thing. What I wonder is why would CHUCK SCHUMER think that he would know when the stomachs of Republicans might churn. I think they might churn when they hear him say those things. Although, rest easy, Mr. Speaker, mine doesn't.

I take this all with good humor because I understand that it is a tactic. It is an Alinsky tactic, and it is designed to bring out a goal. It is not necessarily to raise me up to the point where he assigns me with the full sense of responsibility and authority to determine immigration policy here in the House of Representatives. Oh, I wish it were so, Mr. Speaker. I don't believe it is so. Yes, there is some influence there. History will decide how much—not me, not CHUCK SCHUMER.

Here is his goal: I believe that Senator SCHUMER has concluded that he could taunt the leadership and the House of Representatives, and that includes our Speaker of the House, into bringing amnesty legislation to the floor of the House because, if it does and if it should pass, the Senate would conform with any amnesty legislation because they are controlled by Democrats.

I have long known and long been restrained by people in my own party, Mr. Speaker, from laying out the argument as to why almost every Democrat I know wants open borders and amnesty and a never-ending supply of illegal aliens in the United States of America.

It is a pretty easy formula to figure out, especially if you sit here for 10 or a dozen years engaged in hearings and debate on a weekly basis, you begin to hear the thread of their conversation and you begin to understand the real truth behind their motives. It works out to be this:

Of course there are a large number of illegal immigrants in the United States. We have been using the number 11 million since we stopped using the number 12 million, but they didn't stop coming into America. I don't quite understand why we would think that there are fewer illegal aliens in America today than there were 10 years ago. I believe there are more.

If they come across the border at the rates that the witnesses from the Border Patrol and other witnesses in the hearings have been testifying, they will say that they will stop perhaps 25 percent that try. When I go down to the border and ask them, they will say, well, 10 percent has to come first. It is probably not 10. Some will say, with a little smirk, 3 percent is maybe what we stop.

If I take the 25 percent, 25 percent effectiveness on our border and you look at those whom they do interdict on the border and you do the calculation, that turns out to be a number that is equivalent to 11,000 a night—on average, 11,000 a night coming across our southern border. That would be at some of the peak levels that we have, Mr. Speaker. I would think it is more objective for us to dial that number back down to somewhere in the neighborhood of about half of that. So half of 11,000, 5,500 a night is pretty close to the last reliable information that I found on how many are coming across our border illegally.

Well, so I asked this question: What was the size of Santa Anna's army? About that, about 5,500 or 6,000. So it gives you a sense, the size of Santa Anna's army coming across our southern border every night, on average. I don't say day and night. Most of it is at night. I have sat down on the border at night multiple times. I have traveled

the border and done multiple trips down there to monitor what is going on on our southern border. It has gotten a little better in Arizona, and it has gotten worse in Texas.

We don't have control of this border, but that doesn't trouble most Democrats, because they recognize that the millions of people that are coming into this country illegally are counted in the census. And so, if you would go to a district in California like MAXINE WATERS' district, she only needs about 40,000 to 50,000 votes in her district to get reelected to the United States Congress. If you go to my district, it is well over 120,000 votes for me to be reelected to the United States Congress. The difference in that is two things. One is I have a very, very high percentage of real American citizens that do vote in my district; she has a lower percentage. And I have a higher turnout of people who are responsible enough to vote; she has a lower percentage.

Illegal aliens are counted in the census all over America, and when new district lines are drawn, those district lines treat people the same as citizens. The Constitution doesn't say count the citizens and then reapportion; it says count the people.

And so Democrats are happy enough to see the country filling up with people that they get to count when they do a district, because they get a Democrat district that is another vote here in the House of Representatives, Mr. Speaker. They want to turn this country into a single-party country.

When you think of what happened in California, they are trying to bring about the same kind of transition in Texas. If they can turn Texas from a red State into a blue State, there will never be another conservative elected to a national office in this country again. They know that. That is why they have thousands of their operatives working in Texas, trying to turn Texas over into a blue State.

They know that illegal immigration is an essential key. Back in 2007 or so when they bussed in tens of thousands of demonstrators, many of them self-professed illegal aliens in America, many of them wearing identical T-shirts that were issued to them apparently on the bus, then-alive Senator Teddy Kennedy stepped out to the west lawn of the Capitol and stepped up to the microphone and, through an interpreter, said to that group of people, who was interpreting to them in Spanish, he said:

> Some say, report to be deported; I say, report to become an American citizen.

That was the Democrats' clarion call, the call out to illegal aliens in America to migrate toward the Democrat Party, to those that are outside of America to come into America and migrate towards the Democrat Party. They operate in those neighborhoods doing voter registration drives and signups and organizations, a lot of it funded by Federal dollars that matriculates down into their organizations. They do know what they are doing. They have built a cultural edifice around much of the minority community in America, and much of it has been because, Mr. Speaker, they have been telling them lies. They have been telling them lies about the political opponents of the leftists that are engaged in those neighborhoods; and we have seen this flow, Mr. Speaker, as far as the White House.

The divisions that have been driven between Americans, divisions driven down the line of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, prosperity, those wedges have been driven in a calculated way for the political gain of the people that sit over on this side of this Chamber. I have seen too much of it to believe that I could be off by 1 degree in the statement that I have made, Mr. Speaker.

I am continuing onward, Senator SCHUMER of myself:

> Steve King, a far right, way out of the mainstream outlier doesn't just spew hatred; he calls the shots.

Hmm, I don't think that he could point to any hatred that I have spoken to and identified as spewing. Calling the shots? No, I hear the wisdom of the Republican Conference. I have to hear what they say and what they think and where they anchor their thoughts. We have coalesced on this, Mr. Speaker: whatever we might do to change immigration law, we can't trust the President of the United States to enforce anything he doesn't like. It doesn't just have to be immigration law; it can be anything.

The President of the United States picks and chooses the laws that he will enforce. He essentially tells us: I am not going to enforce this series of laws because I don't like them, and I am not going to enforce these series of laws because I don't like them. It is not just immigration; although, that was some of the first examples and some of the most egregious examples, Mr. Speaker.

And we saw them come through as the Morton memos, and I will circle back to that in a moment. We saw the President, by executive edict, not always in executive order, sometimes a third-tier notice on a Web site of the United States Treasury, sometimes a verbal statement that he makes before a press conference in the Rose Garden at noon on a Friday. The President of the United States will step up and say, for example, when he was speaking to the churches who objected to their religious freedom being taken from them, their conscience protection that was to be assured to them, written into the ObamaCare law, after they took that religious freedom, conscience protection away from our people of faith, and in particular the Catholic churches that filed multiple lawsuits, and other religious organizations did the same, the President was taking 2 weeks of heat and criticism as the faith communities rose up, and he decided to put an end to that. So he held a press conference at the White House at noon on a Friday, and with the Presidential seal in front of the podium, he stood there and said: I am going to make an accommodation to the religious organizations in America, and now I am going to require the insurance companies to provide these things for free.

Well, these things were contraceptives, abortifacients, and sterilizations. Contraceptives, Mr. Speaker, we understand what they are. Abortifacients are pills that bring about the abortion of a little, innocent, unborn baby. Sterilizations are those things that might come with tubal ligations or vasectomies. Those were the things that were in ObamaCare that are particularly egregious to the principles of the Catholic church.

And so the President decided he would make an accommodation written in the rules, by the way—not the bill, but in the rules. The President said: I am going to make an accommodation to the religious organizations, and now I am going to require the insurance companies to provide these things for free. He repeated himself. He said: Provide these things for free. For free.

I thought, hmm, how is it that the President can step up and give a press conference and change a law or change a rule that has been published by Kathleen Sebelius' Health and Human Services? How does the President have the authority to simply speak and make those changes? Surely there must be a rule that is amended. Surely there must be a bill that has been introduced that has a lot of responsible cosponsors, that has a prospect of being passed. Maybe he has got an agreement with our Speaker and majority leader here and HARRY REID over in the Senate.

So we went back and scoured the rule, Mr. Speaker. The rule didn't change, not one i dotted differently, not one t crossed differently. There was no change in any written document, the written document that required the religious organizations to provide contraceptives, abortifacients, and sterilizations.

The President said now the insurance companies have to do this for free. Not one word changed in print anywhere. The insurance companies stepped up to that verbal directive from the President of the United States. That should be appalling to any American citizen that took an eighth grade civics course to understand that the President doesn't write the laws. The President doesn't have the authority to change them. Congress has granted to the executive branch the authority to write rules, an Administrative Procedure Act that directs how those rules that are proposed by the executive branch are published for open public hearing. There is a process they must go through.

The President is not the king. The President doesn't get to issue edicts verbally from the podium and have the force and effect of law to change that

policy without any print being changed anywhere in a rule or in the Federal Register or in the Federal Code. That is what he did with that particular case, Mr. Speaker. I use that as an example to tell you how far this President has overreached from his constitutional authority.

So the President has first imposed contraceptives, abortifacients, and sterilizations on our religious organizations, then lifted the imposition verbally by telling the insurance companies: Now you are going to have to do this for free. What did they do? They complied. They listened to the President's press conference and decided, okay, we are going to do what he tells us. They didn't go back and check the text—well, maybe the text of the press conference, maybe the text of his speech, but there was no rule. There was no law.

The President also suspended welfare-to-work. The temporary assistance to needy families was written that required welfare-to-work. It was written so that then Bill Clinton couldn't circumvent it. It was written tightly and with the idea that a President would stretch it. What happens? This President simply suspended welfare-to-work under TANF.

What else happened? How about President Bush's No Child Left Behind on education?

□ 1415

President Obama has now issued so many waivers that No Child Left Behind no longer exists. These were acts of the United States Congress nullified by executive acts of the President of the United States.

We will accept it if the court over across the street will nullify a law that is passed by the Congress and signed by the President, if they rule it unconstitutional. Most of the time we accept that. Sometimes we reject their judgment because we take an oath to the Constitution too, Mr. Speaker.

But we should be appalled at the constitutional violations of the President of the United States, who has continually overreached on immigration, on education, on welfare-to-work, on ObamaCare itself: the bill with his name and his signature. There are more than 30 changes that the President has brought about on that. Some of them are clearly unconstitutional. Most of them are difficult to litigate to a successful conclusion.

Who calls the shots here? Well, I make recommendations like anybody else does. Each Member follows their own conscience. It is nice to get the assignment—Senator SCHUMER, he says: They listen to me. Well, yes, and we listen to each other.

Here is another quote from Senator SCHUMER. He said that I am winning:

> Steve King has three wins, the rest of the Republican Party and the rest of America is winless. Good for him, terrible for us. King is in the driver's seat of immigration reform and as long as he sits there, things will continue to be stuck in a rut.

Stuck in a rut, in the driver's seat, the rest of America is winless. No, the rest of America is winning each day that we can protect the rule of law, each day that we have something left that we can use to secure our borders, each day that we can deploy some type of law enforcement at the local government, State government, and the Federal Government too, out on the streets of America, that at least slows down this influx of illegal immigration that we have.

America is not winless when that happens. America would be wiped out from a perspective of the rule of law and the future and the destiny for our country if we allowed people like CHUCK SCHUMER, HARRY REID, and DICK DURBIN to set the policy for immigration. If they did that, the rule of law, at least with regard to immigration, would be destroyed, be gone. We couldn't reconstruct it again in our lifetime. Not just our lifetime, Mr. Speaker, but the lifetime of this Republic.

I would ask this question, Mr. Speaker: Has anybody read the Senate Gang of Eight immigration bill? I have. I have read through that entire bill, and I come to this conclusion. They have sent to us from the United States Senate a bill on immigration. It is expansive. It covers all kinds of things. But it is this: it is instantaneous amnesty for almost everybody that is in America illegally, instantaneous amnesty. It is prospective amnesty to the extent that it does not address how we might address people who get into America after the bill might be enacted. So the prospects are that it would be the next wave of those who would be, according to their description, living in the shadows.

So if we are not going to enforce the law in the future or if we are going to pass a Senate version of the bill—and we are not, but the Senate version of the bill, if it becomes law, doesn't do anything to bring about enforcement for those who would violate our immigration laws in the future, nothing. It may do something on the border. A $40 billion Corker amendment blows the budget substantially without a guarantee that it is going to be functional. But is instantaneous amnesty for those that are here. It is prospective amnesty for those who would come here. And, Mr. Speaker, it is retroactive amnesty. And that means it goes back to those who have been deported in the past and says: We really didn't mean it. Why don't you apply to come back to America, you all come back now, you hear, because we really can't have deported you in the past and let people stay in America under the same conditions that we deported you in the past. That is the Senate version of the bill. It is ludicrous from a commonsense heart of the heartland middle America viewpoint, where we respect and love the rule of law.

So Mr. SCHUMER, Senator SCHUMER, went on: He called for my expulsion from the Republican Party. I am pretty sure they are not going to listen to CHUCK SCHUMER on that. He says:

> They can show some courage and say that the Steve Kings in the world can say whatever they want, but they have no place in a modern Republican Party.

Imagine a leftist activist, deploying Alinsky tactics on the floor of the United States Senate, who would tell the Republican Party that they should expel me, who in a lot of ways has stood with the entire platform consistently for a long time. I would have to go change the platform first. It would be easier just to become a Democrat. However, their ranks are not swelling as fast as ours are. Commonsense is prevailing, and we are seeing Republican majorities in the States, a likely Republican majority expanded here in the House of Representatives, and a real good shot at a Republican majority in the United States Senate. What does that say about who is calling the shots in America? It is not CHUCK SCHUMER, it is not HARRY REID, it is not DICK DURBIN.

So he continues. Two weeks later—he hadn't had enough—two weeks later he comes to the floor of the Senate again and goes through a series of some of the same things, which I will skip down through a little bit more quickly:

> Far-right extremists, such as Congressman Steve King.

Another:

> What has the House actually done on immigration these past 2 years?

This is CHUCK SCHUMER:

> Nothing. Look it up. This is what Steve King wants, he wants the House to do nothing. He is winning and America is losing.

Well, no, the House has done something. In the appropriations bill last year, June 6, 2013, Department of Homeland Security Appropriations bill, I brought an amendment, an amendment that shut off all funding to implement or enforce the President's unconstitutional actions and exert constitutional actions that had to do with DACA, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, and for prosecutorial discretion known as the Morton Memos.

The President's action is unconstitutional. He has no prosecutorial discretion to identify classes or groups of people and then exempt them from the law. Prosecutorial discretion must be on an individual basis; it cannot be on a group. They violated that. They know it. I read their material and debated with them and initiated a lawsuit. We are somewhat sidetracked right now on that. It is the nature of the thing.

My amendment passed this Congress 224 to 201. That is not nothing. That is restoring the rule of law and the Constitution immigration policy after it has been violated by the President of the United States. We sent that out of the House of Representatives, Mr. Speaker. We set it on HARRY REID's desk, and there it likely went into his

drawer and he took no action on it. So it is not that the House isn't doing anything, it is that the Senate did something really illogical: the Gang of Eight's bill for instantaneous, perpetual, and retroactive amnesty.

And then we have the number three-ranking Democrat in the Senate trying to taunt the Speaker of the House into doing something equally as foolish: bring amnesty to the floor of the House. This place would blow up and the American people would arrive here in short order because they love the rule of law. Not only natural born Americans, not only naturalized Americans, green card holders that come here to achieve the American Dream. That means from any country they came from and every country they came from, those who came here to love America and respect and appreciate the American Dream.

But what is happening is it is being eroded by destruction of the rule of law for political motivation on the part of people like Barack Obama, HARRY REID, CHUCK SCHUMER, and DICK DURBIN.

There is another quote here by CHUCK SCHUMER that says:

> Enough is enough. We will not let our party be hijacked by extremists whose xenophobia causes them to prefer maintaining a broken system over achieving a tough, fair, and practical long-term solution.

Xenophobia. I had to look that up when we came to this Congress. We don't use that in the streets where I come from, but I have known its definition for a long time: being afraid of something that you don't know. Well, I don't often get accused of being afraid of anything, so when I am I pay a little bit of attention to that.

I would say this. CHUCK SCHUMER is not like me. I am not afraid of him so it is not xenophobia. HARRY REID is not like me. I am not afraid of HARRY REID, so that is not xenophobia. DICK DURBIN is not like me. I am not afraid of him. That is not xenophobia. What xenophobia are they talking about, Mr. Speaker, is my question?

So if we are going to have some kind of a challenge of rhetoric bouncing back and forth between the House and the Senate, let's do it face to face, let's do it eye to eye. Let's have that duel, not like Aaron Burr and Alexander Hamilton—I would be the one standing on the high ground on that—but let's do it like real men do it today, not dueling pistols at 50 paces, let's do this with microphones within arm's reach, Mr. Speaker. Maybe we could get to the bottom of this and we could determine who exactly had the xenophobia.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind Members that while debate may include policy criticisms of the President and Members of the Senate, it is not in order to engage in personalities toward those parties.

STOP THE FRANK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL) for 30 minutes.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the time this afternoon.

I am sorry you are not going to get the benefit of the posters I brought down here with me because I am talking about a topic that is not one we bring up a lot in this Chamber. It is the use of the congressional frank.

I will wager that when you were elected to Congress, the only thing you knew about the frank is that perhaps you cussed it from time to time when it showed up in your mailbox. I brought a copy down here because I am sure there are going to be staff and folks back in the office who hadn't seen one before, folks walking around the office building today.

But the frank, the congressional frank—why they call it the frank I do not know—is that signature that you and I put up in the top right-hand corner of our envelopes so that we can send mail.

I will tell you, Mr. Speaker, if you have gone to town hall meetings where this hasn't come up, I would be interested to know. Because on that list of congressional perks—and you know the ones I am talking about, ones like you get free health care for life, which of course is not true, ones like if you serve one term in Congress you get a free pension for life, also not true—but among those perks is the free mail perk, the congressional frank. It drives me crazy, Mr. Speaker, it drives my constituents crazy, and we have the power to fix it here in this Chamber. I want to stop the frank.

Now, folks might say if you want to stop the frank, why not just stop using the frank. Fair enough. It is because the law requires us to use it. I am going get to that later, Mr. Speaker, because I will bet you have not seen that code section before.

Here is an article from Bloomberg, Mr. Speaker, lest you think this is something that you and I just hear at town hall meetings. This is something that is out, and you see it in newspaper after newspaper after newspaper. A headline—this is two summers ago, Bloomberg: ''Lawmakers Intent on Dictating How the U.S. Postal Service Cuts Billions From Its Spending Are Among Those Helping Themselves to a Favorite Congressional Perk: Free Mail.''

I want to be clear: there is no free mail, there is no free mail in the United States Congress today. This frank that I am talking about, Mr. Speaker, every time you sign your name to the top of a letter you are paying the full freight on that letter. You are absolutely going to pay for it when it hits the Postal Service. Sometimes it is on the honor system that you are reporting it, sometimes the mail house here at the Capitol is counting it. There is no free mail.

But even a group as reputable as Bloomberg believes that there is. I know with certainty, because I hear it from my folks back home, our constituents believe that there is. In this time where trust is the commodity that is in the tightest supply in this town, we must do those things to restore trust with men and women back home. We must end this favorite of congressional perks.

Now, this is Bloomberg 2012, Mr. Speaker. I don't want you to think this is something that we have just started talking about. You can't see it from where you sit. But I also brought The New York Times from March of 1875. That is right. March of 1875, The New York Times is chronicling a vote that was taken right here in the U.S. House of Representatives. Well, not right here in this building on this floor. It was taken through those doors and into the next Chamber. But it says this. It says:

> By a vote of 113 to 65, the House concurred in the Senate amendment of the postal appropriations bill to restore the franking privilege.

Now, the franking privilege, this signing of your name on a letter, it came from England, and it came in the early days of the Postal Service, where maybe you had an important governmental responsibility, maybe you needed to communicate with folks on the other side of the country and there was no local post office close by. You could be living out on the frontier, you could be far away, you just might not have had a coin in your pocket. So it allowed in the name of government efficiency for Members of Congress to sign their name at the top of a letter and drop that into the postal stream.

□ 1430

I promise you there is not a man or a woman who serves in Congress today who does not know where his local post office is. There is not a man or woman who serves in Congress today who struggles to get over to the grocery store where there are stamps for sale.

We do not need to be able to sign our names at the top of an envelope today to get it done, but in 1875, after Congress had abolished the frank, in the name of abolishing congressional perks, the Senate passed a bill to bring it back into being. The House concurred.

The New York Times says this:

> So far as our observation goes, there has never been any demand for the restoration of the franking nuisance, except on the part of Congressmen.

I want you to think about this. Where does this sense that Congress gets free mail privileges come from, Mr. Speaker? It comes from the fact that, once upon a time, Congress actually got free mail privileges.

Again, the Postal Service was in its infancy, and in order to conduct the people's business, the franking privilege was adopted from what folks had seen at play in England, but in 1875, Congress was still trying to grapple with the distrust that the franking privilege created amongst its constituencies.

The New York Times, March 1875:

So far as our observation goes, there has never been any demand for the restoration of the franking nuisance, except on the part of Congressmen.

Mr. Speaker, what I hope you will help me carry to our colleagues is that we no longer need that franking nuisance.

There will be men and women in this Chamber who will say: ROB, what is the big deal? Don't we have bigger problems to struggle with?

Of course we do, but this one is easy for us to fix. There are those men and women out there who believe that there is a congressional perk that exists in this Chamber—at a time of record budget deficits—that no other American has access to, and we can abolish it with the stroke of our pen right here in the House.

This is something that has plagued me and my conscience in a way that I just wanted to stop using it. I just wanted to start buying stamps. I want you to think about the micromanagement in this institution, Mr. Speaker.

My plan—my radical plan—was that I was going to buy a stamp and send a letter. Whoa. Lo and behold, Mr. Speaker, it turns out that that is against the rules. I have a copy here of the Members' Congressional Handbook from this Congress.

It says:

Postal expenses can be incurred only when the frank is insufficient.

That means, for the whole code section that tells you what the frank can be used for, only if you are outside of that code section can you put a stamp on.

I have highlighted it here, Mr. Speaker:

Postage may not be used in lieu of the frank.

Here it is, Mr. Speaker, in large print, with my name at the top of a letter. It embarrasses me every time it goes out the door because I know, even when I am doing the people's business—which I am doing with each and every letter that goes out the door in responding to constituents' concerns and in answering constituents' questions—that folks do not feel served on the other end.

They feel reminded that, perhaps, there is one set of rules for Congress and one set of rules for everybody else, but the rules that we have agreed to live by in this body prohibit me from buying a stamp and sending that letter out instead.

The good news, Mr. Speaker, is that it turns out, when the law is not written the way the law ought to be written, my constituents have empowered me with a voting card with which to change it.

I have partnered with my friend, TAMMY DUCKWORTH from Illinois, a Democrat on the other side of the aisle; and, together, we are going to stop the frank. We are going to abolish this so-called congressional perk—this free mailing privilege, this bane and stain in this Chamber—that folks have been fighting to get rid of for over 100 years. We are going to do it.

I am not optimistic enough to believe that this can be done alone. That is why I have a fantastic partner on the Democratic side of the aisle, and that is why she and I, together, are going to those groups around this town who care about congressional accountability in order to make them our partners in this effort. I have quotes from two of them.

If you sit on the right-hand side of the aisle, Mr. Speaker, the National Taxpayers Union is certainly a group that you know and respect. Their appeal is certainly bipartisan, but I know it has credibility on the right.

The National Taxpayers Union says this:

Repealing the so-called ''franking privilege'' is a fair and simple reform that will introduce pay-as-you-go budgeting to one of the most basic units of government—the congressional office. Check there ''on board.''

Now, if you are on the other side of the aisle, Mr. Speaker, I know Public Citizen is a bipartisan group. They speak to folks on both sides of the aisle, and public integrity is their mission.

Public Citizen says this:

Public Citizen heartily supports the Woodall-Duckworth legislation to rein in the abuse of taxpayer-funded frank mail for Members of Congress, and it applauds your work of making this commonsense legislation come from across party lines.

We can do this.

Here is my frustration as a 3-year Member of this House, Mr. Speaker, and I know it is your frustration, too. You can't do the big things without each other, and it is tough to find one another when you haven't been able to do the little things together that build the trust.

Trust is the commodity that is missing. It is not just missing between our constituents and this Chamber. Mr. Speaker, you know it is often missing within this Chamber. We must seize upon opportunities, big and small, to come together to do those things that we know are the right things to do.

I will say to my colleagues, Mr. Speaker—because I know there are going to be folks back in their offices who are watching and who are saying: Hey, wait a minute. Don't we have a whole list of rules about the dos and don'ts of sending mail from a congressional office?

We do. Those rules and regulations are housed in what is called the Franking Commission today, which is actually the Committee on Mailing Standards.

I don't propose to abolish a single one of those. Those rules, for folks who don't know, are designed to prevent people from campaigning on the taxpayer dime out of their official offices.

Now, there are folks in this Chamber who might like to abolish those rules, too. That is not my fight. The standards that prevent Members from abusing the mail in their offices, that prevent them from campaigning out of their offices—all of those standards to try to make sure that taxpayer dollars are being targeted only at those taxpayer-required needs—will remain in place.

This, this signature at the top of a letter, suggests to every American that, somehow, when you get elected to Congress, the rules no longer apply to you, big rules and small rules, like licking a stamp. Now, you don't even have to lick the stamps anymore. You can just peel them off—they are self-stick now—and stick them right on.

We can do this. There is a low opinion that folks often hold of Members of Congress, Mr. Speaker, but I believe we can buy stamps and stick them on letters. I believe that we can—but wait. There is nothing in what I propose that requires you to lick your own stamps or to even stick on your own stamps.

If you want to get a postal permit device like every business in America has, by golly, run your office like a business. If we want to change the rules, so that we use the penalty mail system, which is what the executive branch uses—what the White House would use, what the IRS would use, what the Justice Department would use, which is the same as a postage-paid marker from a business, except that it is a postage-paid marker from a government—fair game.

We are the only folks who run the show this way, and it is time for that to stop.

I don't think folks understand how far it goes. The franking privilege exists in statute. If I were to pass on my franking privilege, Mr. Speaker, it goes to my wife. Did you know that, if Members of Congress were to pass on, suddenly, their spouses would be allowed to start signing their names to letters and dropping them into the postal stream? Why is that? Why is this something that I can deed on after my demise? In fact, why is it something that exists at all?

The answer is, once upon a time, it was difficult to find a stamp. Can't we agree that those days are behind us?

Public Citizen can agree, and the National Taxpayers Union can agree, and TAMMY DUCKWORTH from Illinois can agree, and ROB WOODALL from Georgia can agree. I know this is something that we can do together.

Mr. Speaker, I don't claim that this is going to be the proposal that saves the world. It is not; yet, for every taxpayer who opens up the newspaper every day and does not find news about how his taxpayer dollars are being invested transformatively in the lives of children, invested transformatively for men and women harmed in the defense of this Nation, but instead, opens up the newspaper and finds story after story of waste, of fraud and of abuse, our role here in this Chamber is to root that out and to stop it wherever we may find it.

Don't you believe, before we can help someone else clean up his house, we must clean up our own house?

Mr. Speaker, I encourage you to visit my Web page—which is woodall.house.gov/stopthefrank—because if you and I don't push this amongst our colleagues, it is not going to rise to the level of action. It is just something that we can do. We can do it. We can do it right away. There is no need to delay. We can begin restoring faith one bit at a time.

Let's restore faith with this today, with another bill tomorrow and with another bill the day after that, and one of these days, we might find that the American people have trust and confidence in their Congress again. It wasn't true in 1875, and it may be optimistic to believe it could be true in 2015, but I am certain of this: if we know that we have opportunities and if we fail to seize those opportunities, we will never earn and, I dare say, deserve the trust of our constituencies back home.

Mr. Speaker, send any of your constituents who are interested to woodall.house.gov/stopthefrank, and in fact, encourage the folks that you see and interact with from other parts of the country to visit Stop the Frank. Then encourage their Congressmen and their Congresswomen to be a part of this effort.

This does not have to be a partisan issue because it is not a partisan issue. This does not have to be a wait-and-see issue because it is an issue we have been looking at for more than 100 years.

What this can be is a get-it-done-together issue that, again, with one small step at a time, begins to earn the trust of the American people that I know each and every Member of this Chamber wants to earn.

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

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 2086. An act to address current emergency shortages of propane and other home heating fuels and to provide greater flexibility and information for Governors to address such emergencies in the future; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce 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.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 43 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, May 23, 2014, at 3 p.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5749. A letter from the General Counsel, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Paying Benefits received May 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

5750. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Financial Management, United States Capitol Police, transmitting the semiannual report of receipts and expenditures of appropriations and other funds for the period October 1, 2014 through March 31, 2014; (H. Doc. No. 113—116); to the Committee on House Administration and ordered to be printed.

5751. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 620 in the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 130925836-4174-02] (RIN: 0648-XD236) received May 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5752. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries Off West Coast States; Biennial Specifications and Management Measures; Inseason Adjustments [Docket No.: 120814338-2711-02] (RIN: 0648-BE10) received May 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5753. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; 2014 Commercial Accountability Measure and Closure for South Atlantic Vermilion Snapper [Docket No.: 130312235-3658-02] (RIN: 0648-XD173) received May 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5754. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catcher/Processors Using Hook-and-Line Gear in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 130925836-4174-02] (RIN: 0648-XD182) received May 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5755. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fisheries [Docket No.: 130214139-3542-02] (RIN: 0648-XD222) received May 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5756. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone: Akadama Fireworks Display, Richmond Inner Harbor, Richmond, CA [Docket No.: USCG-2014-0133] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received May 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5757. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Lake Havasu Gran Prix; Lake Havasu, AZ [Docket No.: USCG-2014-0177] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received May 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5758. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Pago Pago Harbor, American Samoa [Docket No.: USCG-2014-0014] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received May 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5759. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Local Regulations and Safety Zones; Recurring Events in Northern New England [Docket No.: USCG-2013-0904] (RIN: 1625-AA08; AA00) received May 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5760. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Local Regulations for Marine Events, Tred Avon River; Between Bellevue, MD and Oxford, MD [Docket No.: USCG-2013-1059] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received May 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5761. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Local Regulations; Eighth Coast Guard District Annual and Recurring Marine Events Update [Docket No.: USCG-2013-1061] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received May 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5762. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zones; Revolution 3 Triathlon, Lake Erie, Sandusky Bay, Sandusky, OH [Docket No.: USCG-2012-0730] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received May 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5763. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone, Barnegat Inlet; Barnegat Light, NJ [Docket No.: USCG-2014-0145] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received May 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5764. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Local Regulation, Rotary Club of Fort Lauderdale New River Raft Race, New River; Fort Lauderdale, FL [Docket No.: USCG-2014-0001] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received May 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5765. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Great Egg Harbor Bay, (Ship Channel and (Beach Thorofare NJICW)), Somers Point and Ocean City, NJ [Docket No.: USCG-2014-0121] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received May 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5766. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Broad Creek, Laurel, DE [Docket No.: USCG-2013-0778] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received May 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5767. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety

Zone; Bat Mitzvah Celebration Fireworks Display; Joshua Cove; Guilford, CT [Docket Number: USCG-2014-0158] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received May 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5768. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Military Munitions Recovery, Raritan River, Raritan, NJ [Docket No.: USCG-2012-1045] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received May 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5769. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Texas City Channel, Texas City, TX [Docket Number: USCG-2014-0034] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received May 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

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. GEORGE MILLER of California (for himself, Ms. WATERS, Mr. WELCH, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. TIERNEY, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. SABLAN, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. POCAN, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. NADLER, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. CHU, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. BASS, Mr. ENYART, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. RANGEL, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. FARR, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. HONDA, Mr. CLAY, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. RUSH, and Mr. GARAMENDI):

H.R. 4714. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to establish requirements for preferred banking arrangements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, 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. LANKFORD:

H.R. 4715. A bill to rescind unused earmarks provided for the Department of Transportation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, and Oversight and Government Reform, 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. GARDNER (for himself, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. STEWART, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. AMODEI, and Mr. DAINES):

H.R. 4716. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to provide certain Western States assistance in the development of statewide conservation and management plans for the protection and recovery of sage grouse species, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. TIBERI (for himself, Mr. NEAL, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. NUNES, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. CROWLEY, Ms. JENKINS, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. KIND, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. REED, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Mr. GIBBS, and Ms. LOFGREN):

H.R. 4717. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent and expand the temporary minimum credit rate for the low-income housing tax credit program; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. TIBERI (for himself, Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Mr. REED, Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. NUNES, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Ms. JENKINS, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. MARCHANT, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, and Mr. ROSKAM):

H.R. 4718. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify and make permanent bonus depreciation; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. GERLACH):

H.R. 4719. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend and expand the charitable deduction for contributions of food inventory; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WALBERG (for himself, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. CONNOLLY, and Mr. TONKO):

H.R. 4720. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the priority for enrollment of medal of honor recipients in the health care system of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 4721. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to encourage charitable contributions of real property for conservation purposes by Native Corporations; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BISHOP of New York:

H.R. 4722. A bill to clarify that for purposes of all Federal laws governing marine fisheries management, the landward boundary of the exclusive economic zone between areas south of Montauk, New York, and Point Judith, Rhode Island, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. CASTRO of Texas (for himself and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN):

H.R. 4723. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize aliens who have been granted deferred action and work authorization under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program of the Department of Homeland Security and who otherwise satisfy the requirements for admission to a military service academy to be appointed to and attend a military service academy and, upon graduation, to be appointed as a commissioned officer in the Armed Forces; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. CICILLINE:

H.R. 4724. A bill to amend chapter 83 of title 41, United States Code (popularly referred to as the Buy American Act) and certain other laws with respect to certain waivers under those laws, to provide greater transparency regarding exceptions to domestic sourcing requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, and Financial 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 Mr. COLLINS of New York:

H.R. 4725. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that all veterans are eligible to participate in hospice care programs of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois (for himself and Ms. TITUS):

H.R. 4726. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish an innovation in surface transportation program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee (for himself, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. PAULSEN):

H.R. 4727. A bill to enhance interstate commerce by creating a National Hiring Standard for Motor Carriers; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, 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 Mr. FINCHER (for himself and Mrs. BLACK):

H.R. 4728. A bill to direct the Office of the Actuary of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and the Comptroller General of the United States to study the impact of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act on small businesses; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Education and the Workforce, Energy and Commerce, the Judiciary, Natural Resources, House Administration, Rules, and Appropriations, 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. GRAYSON (for himself and Ms. SHEA-PORTER):

H.R. 4729. A bill to require debarment of persons convicted of fraudulent use of ''Made in America'' labels; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 4730. A bill to allow the return of personal property to victims of sexual assault incidents involving a member of the Armed Forces upon completion of proceedings related to the incident; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. JORDAN (for himself, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. SALMON, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, and Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina):

H.R. 4731. A bill to help individuals receiving assistance under means-tested welfare programs obtain self-sufficiency, to provide information on total spending on means-tested welfare programs, to provide an overall spending limit on means-tested welfare programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, the

Budget, Rules, Energy and Commerce, and Education and the Workforce, 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. KILMER (for himself, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. HECK of Washington, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. PETERS of California, and Mr. REICHERT):

H.R. 4732. A bill to authorize Federal agencies to establish prize competitions for innovation or adaptation management development relating to ocean acidification; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. LARSON of Connecticut:

H.R. 4733. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase, expand, and extend the credit for hydrogen-related alternative fuel vehicle refueling property and to increase the investment credit for more efficient fuel cells; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MCHENRY:

H.R. 4734. A bill to repeal the authority of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection to restrict mandatory pre-dispute arbitration; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. NOLAN (for himself and Mr. MCKINLEY):

H.R. 4735. A bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to provide for a temporary shift in the scheduled collection of the transitional reinsurance program payments; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. NOLAN (for himself, Mr. WELCH, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. WALZ, Mr. PETRI, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. MCCOLLUM, and Mr. PAULSEN):

H.R. 4736. A bill to revise the authorized route of the North Country National Scenic Trail in northeastern Minnesota and to extend the trail into Vermont to connect with the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. PALAZZO:

H.R. 4737. A bill to amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to grant to States on the Gulf of Mexico jurisdiction over fisheries out to 9 nautical miles from shore, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. PAYNE:

H.R. 4738. A bill to ensure the safety of DOT-111 tank cars by improving standards for new tank cars and upgrading existing tank cars, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. MURPHY of Florida):

H.R. 4739. A bill to provide assistance to communities affected by total maximum daily loads established by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. NUNES, and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut):

H.R. 4740. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the depreciation recovery period for energy-efficient cool roof systems; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. TIERNEY:

H.R. 4741. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for an increase in the amount of monthly dependency and indemnity compensation payable to surviving spouses by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. FUDGE:

H. Con. Res. 100. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the enactment of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT (for himself, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. GRIJALVA):

H. Res. 593. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that in order to better understand water availability, sustainability, and security at a national scale, the United States should prioritize the assessment of the quality and quantity of surface water and groundwater resources, and produce a national water census with the same sense of urgency that was incorporated in the ''Man on the Moon'' project to address the inevitable challenges of ''Peak Water''; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Agriculture, and 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 Ms. BONAMICI (for herself and Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana):

H. Res. 594. A resolution recognizing Older Americans Month; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. DELAURO (for herself, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. NORTON, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. BASS, Ms. MENG, and Mr. MCDERMOTT):

H. Res. 595. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of May 23 as the ''International Day to End Obstetric Fistula'' to significantly raise awareness and intensify actions towards ending obstetric fistula; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. DUFFY (for himself, Mr. PETRI, Mr. COOK, and Mr. PERLMUTTER):

H. Res. 596. A resolution recognizing the Khmer and Lao/Hmong Freedom Fighters of Cambodia and Laos for supporting and defending the United States Armed Forces during the conflict in Southeast Asia and for their continued support and defense of the United States; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

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.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California:

H.R. 4717.

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

Article I, Section 8 of Constitution of the United States

By Mr. LANKFORD:

H.R. 4715.

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

Section 8, Clause 1: ''The Congress shall have Power To . . . provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States''

By Mr. GARDNER:

H.R. 4716.

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

Article I, Section 8, clause 18 of the United States Constitution:

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. TIBERI:

H.R. 4717.

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

Article 1, Section 7 and Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. TIBERI:

H.R. 4718.

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

Article 1, Section 7 and Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. REED:

H.R. 4719.

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

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution and Amendment XVI of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. WALBERG:

H.R. 4720.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 12, 14 and 18 of the Constitution of the United States; the authority to raise and support an army, to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces and to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper carrying into execution the foregoing powers.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 4721.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. BISHOP of New York:

H.R. 4722.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. CASTRO of Texas:

H.R. 4723.

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

THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I, SECTION 8: POWERS OF CONGRESS

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 Mr. CICILLINE:

H.R. 4724.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. COLLINS of New York:

H.R. 4725.

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, Section 8, of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. DAVIS of Illinois:

H.R. 4726.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically Clause 1, Clause 3, Clause 7, and Clause 18.

By Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee:

H.R. 4727.

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

Article I Section 8

To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes;

By Mr. FINCHER:

H.R. 4728.

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

Article I Section 8.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 4729.

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

Article I, Clause 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 4730.

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

Article I, Clause 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. JORDAN:

H.R. 4731.

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

The bill makes specific changes to existing law in a manner that returns power to the States and to the people, in accordance with Amendment X of the United staes Constitution.

By Mr. KILMER:

H.R. 4732.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. LARSON of Connecticut:

H.R. 4733.

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

Clause 1, Section 8, Article I

By Mr. MCHENRY:

H.R. 4734.

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

The Commerce Clause, Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution states that Congress shall have power to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. NOLAN:

H.R. 4735.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. NOLAN:

H.R. 4736.

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

Article 1, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States grants Congress the authority to enact this bill.

By Mr. PALAZZO:

H.R. 4737.

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

(1) Article I Section 8—The Commerce Clause, granting Congress the power to regulate commerce among the several States;

(2) Article I, Section 8—The Necessary and Proper Clause, granting Congress the power to make all laws which are necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the powers vested by the Constitution of the United States; and

(3) Article IV, Section 3—The Federal Property Power Clause, granting Congress the power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States.

By Mr. PAYNE:

H.R. 4738.

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

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 14 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. REED:

H.R. 4739.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. REED:

H.R. 4740.

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

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution and Amendment XVI of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. TIERNEY:

H.R. 4741.

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

Article I, Section 8.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

H.R. 164: Mr. HANNA.

H.R. 303: Ms. DELAURO.

H.R. 494: Mr. DELANEY.

H.R. 508: Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H.R. 713: Mr. FARENTHOLD.

H.R. 942: Mr. YOUNG of Indiana and Mr. LUETKEMEYER.

H.R. 961: Ms. DUCKWORTH and Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.

H.R. 1009: Mr. FINCHER.

H.R. 1020: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.

H.R. 1146: Mrs. BEATTY and Mr. BERA of California.

H.R. 1150: Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 1180: Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. GRAYSON.

H.R. 1201: Mr. GRAYSON.

H.R. 1250: Mr. SCALISE.

H.R. 1254: Mr. KING of New York.

H.R. 1274: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia and Mr. HARPER.

H.R. 1502: Mr. ISSA, Mr. FLORES, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. STUTZMAN, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. WOODALL, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, and Mrs. BACHMANN.

H.R. 1507: Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California.

H.R. 1563: Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas.

H.R. 1732: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.

H.R. 1771: Mr. LATHAM.

H.R. 1801: Mr. BENISHEK.

H.R. 1851: Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. ELLISON, and Mr. PIERLUISI.

H.R. 1920: Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 2028: Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, and Mr. SCHNEIDER.

H.R. 2156: Mr. FOSTER.

H.R. 2429: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. HUNTER, and Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California.

H.R. 2500: Mr. BENISHEK.

H.R. 2692: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.

H.R. 2772: Mr. SENSENBRENNER and Mr. COBLE.

H.R. 2807: Mr. RENACCI and Mr. COLLINS of New York.

H.R. 2825: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.

H.R. 2827: Mr. DELANEY, Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 2841: Mr. PASCRELL and Mr. RYAN of Ohio.

H.R. 2852: Ms. BONAMICI and Ms. MOORE.

H.R. 2870: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.

H.R. 2959: Mr. UPTON and Mr. MCKINLEY.

H.R. 3022: Mr. ENYART.

H.R. 3116: Mr. BUTTERFIELD.

H.R. 3279: Mr. AMASH and Mr. CRENSHAW.

H.R. 3377: Mr. CONAWAY.

H.R. 3471: Mr. CONYERS.

H.R. 3662: Mr. DOGGETT and Mr. GALLEGO.

H.R. 3676: Ms. HAHN.

H.R. 3708: Mr. BUCHANAN and Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.

H.R. 3717: Mr. HUNTER.

H.R. 3836: Mr. WALZ, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. ROONEY, Mr. HECK of Nevada, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. CARTER, Mr. NUNNELEE, Mr. SOUTHERLAND, Mr. PERRY, Mr. LANCE, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. NADLER, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. UPTON, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. FORBES, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. POE of Texas, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, and Mr. MEADOWS.

H.R. 3978: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts and Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 3991: Mr. AMODEI.

H.R. 3992: Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. REICHERT, and Mr. LATHAM.

H.R. 4041: Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 4069: Mr. COFFMAN.

H.R. 4086: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK and Ms. SEWELL of Alabama.

H.R. 4106: Mr. BACHUS and Mr. PITTENGER.

H.R. 4135: Mr. COLLINS of New York.

H.R. 4156: Mr. SCHRADER and Ms. WILSON of Florida.

H.R. 4172: Mr. CAPUANO.

H.R. 4190: Mr. ROONEY and Mr. COFFMAN.

H.R. 4213: Ms. KUSTER.

H.R. 4216: Mr. HOLT, Ms. BASS, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SPEIER, and Mr. PASTOR of Arizona.

H.R. 4217: Mr. PETERS of Michigan, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 4240: Ms. SLAUGHTER.

H.R. 4250: Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 4257: Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin.

H.R. 4262: Mr. WESTMORELAND and Mrs. WAGNER.

H.R. 4295: Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 4315: Mr. JONES, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, and Mr. FRANKS of Arizona.

H.R. 4325: Mr. CARNEY.

H.R. 4328: Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 4351: Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. LATHAM, and Mr. COOPER.

H.R. 4352: Mr. JONES.

H.R. 4365: Ms. FRANKEL of Florida.

H.R. 4417: Mr. CLAY.

H.R. 4426: Mr. PETERS of Michigan.

H.R. 4437: Mr. COFFMAN.

H.R. 4450: Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. COLE, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. LANCE, and Mr. RICE of South Carolina.

H.R. 4491: Mr. FITZPATRICK and Mr. DESANTIS.

H.R. 4507: Mr. COBLE and Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 4544: Mr. SWALWELL of California and Ms. TSONGAS.

H.R. 4558: Mr. SCALISE.

H.R. 4577: Mr. SHUSTER.

H.R. 4582: Mr. PETERS of Michigan.

H.R. 4590: Mrs. ROBY and Mr. COTTON.

H.R. 4622: Mr. SWALWELL of California.

H.R. 4628: Mr. NADLER, Mr. DENHAM, Ms. MENG, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. NORTON, Ms. WATERS, and Mr. COURTNEY.

H.R. 4629: Mr. O'ROURKE, Ms. BASS, and Mrs. DAVIS of California.

H.R. 4630: Ms. DELAURO.

H.R. 4631: Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. GERLACH, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr.

HOLDING, and Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.

H.R. 4636: Ms. JACKSON LEE and Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 4637: Mr. STEWART.

H.R. 4644: Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. HAHN, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. PASCRELL, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. ESTY, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. DELANEY, Mr. HONDA, and Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 4645: Mr. NADLER.

H.R. 4653: Mr. PITTS.

H.R. 4672: Mr. FARR.

H.R. 4698: Mr. PEARCE, Mr. DUFFY, and Mr. BENISHEK.

H.R. 4701: Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 4712: Mr. HORSFORD.

H. Con. Res. 97: Mrs. LUMMIS.

H. Res. 30: Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas.

H. Res. 109: Mr. WALDEN, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. LAMALFA, and Ms. SHEA-PORTER.

H. Res. 153: Mr. COOK.

H. Res. 204: Ms. DELBENE.

H. Res. 283: Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H. Res. 538: Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, and Mr. DENT.

H. Res. 571: Mr. COLLINS of New York.

H. Res. 572: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.

H. Res. 587: Mr. STIVERS.

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Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 160 WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, MAY 22, 2014 No. 78

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Creator, redeemer, sustainer, You called us out of darkness into Your marvelous light. Dispel the shadows of confusion in our lives, replacing them with charity and peace. What we do not know, teach us. What we can't see, show us. What we don't have, give us. What we aren't, make us.

Abide with our Senators in their labors, using them as vessels for Your service. Lord, keep them on the path of integrity, strengthened and sustained by Your grace. Bless and keep them. Make Your face shine upon them and be gracious to them. Lift the light of Your countenance upon them and give them Your peace.

We pray in Your great 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 PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

TO PROTECT AND ENHANCE OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECREATIONAL HUNTING, FISHING, AND SHOOTING—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now move to proceed to Calendar No. 384, S. 2363, which is the Hagan sportsmen's legislation.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to S. 2363, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 1:45 today, with the time until then equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or our designees, with the majority controlling the first 30 minutes and the Republicans the second 30 minutes. Additionally, Senator LEAHY will control the final 5 minutes and Senator PAUL will control the 5 minutes prior to that.

At 1:45 p.m. there will be two rollcall votes. The first vote will be on confirmation of the nomination of David Barron to be U.S. circuit judge for the First Circuit, and the second vote will be on the adoption of the conference report to accompany H.R. 3060, the WRRDA bill.

TAX EXTENDERS

This week Senate Republicans voted against tax cuts that most of them have said they like. The legislation is widely applauded around the country. I have a letter from 152 different entities that say they love this legislation, and they said it should pass, two of which are the Chamber of Commerce, which is certainly no leftwing group, and the National Association of Manufacturers—the same—and there are scores of others. It seems the only Republicans who do not want this tax cut are the Republicans in Congress. Republicans around the country want these tax cuts, Democrats want these tax cuts, and so do Independents.

This legislation is very important because it would bolster nearly every segment of our society. It helps students and teachers, workers and employers, American families and businesses, all while saving money and growing our economy.

These 152 organizations that signed this letter to me are pleading with the Senate to extend these tax provisions because not doing so would ''inject instability and uncertainty into our economy.''

Republicans say the reason they voted against the bill is because they want to vote on amendments. Yet the only amendment they have identified was a poison pill amendment. Of course, what was the subject matter? Their favorite subject—ObamaCare. It has nothing to do with the extenders.

But we have seen this game play out before. The Senate is not going to vote on ''gotcha'' amendments designed to score political points. This legislation is too important. I have said all along that I am willing to undertake reasonable, germane amendments. That is certainly appropriate. That is what they did in the Finance Committee. They had an extended markup of this bill in the Finance Committee. The rule they have there is that amendments have to be germane. That rule applied to this bill, as it should, and that is what should be applied here on the floor.

So if Republican Senators can come up with a list of reasonable, germane amendments, I am more than happy to return to the tax extenders bill. Those are amendments I would not pick. They always say: Well, REID is picking our amendments.

Those are their amendments. They can file reasonable, germane amendments. There are a multitude of amendments they could offer.

So let's see if Republicans want to get something done on this legislation. We can debate back and forth on the finer points of Senate procedure endlessly, as has happened around here in the last 5½ years. But at the end of the day it comes down to a simple question: Do you want to get something done for the middle class? Do you want

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

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to get something done for business? Or do you want to impose more gridlock and obstruction and delay for the sake of delay?

We are here because we want to get something done for the middle class. That is how we feel on this side of the aisle. It is a shame my Republican colleagues cannot say the same.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WALSH). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 1:45, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided between the two leaders or their designees, with the majority controlling the first 30 minutes and the Republicans controlling the second 30 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, later today we are going to vote on the confirmation of David Barron, who has been nominated for a vacancy on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit.

Yesterday, we were able to overcome the unjustified Republican filibuster of this extraordinary nominee. Now, I have had the privilege of serving longer in this body than any other Senator here. I have never seen so many filibusters of judicial nominees by any President, Republican or Democratic. In fact, Republicans filibustered the very first judge President Obama sent to this body, a judge who was strongly supported by the Senators from his State, one of whom was the most senior Republican in this body, the other a moderate Democrat. Fortunately, enough Senators joined together to overcome that filibuster.

David Barron is currently a professor at Harvard Law School. He is a nationally recognized expert in constitutional law and the separation of powers, administrative law, and federalism. He clerked on the U.S. Supreme Court for Justice John Paul Stevens. In fact, I recall that Justice Stevens had so much regard for him that he attended Mr. Barron's nomination hearing.

I am in full support of Mr. Barron's nomination. It is almost as if he was sent to central casting for who should be a court of appeals judge. I have not seen any judicial nominee with better qualifications by either a Republican or Democratic President.

Let me respond to some of the criticisms levied against him with respect to the so-called drone memos as well as allegations that he would not be an independent judge who adheres to the rule of law. I reject both of those criticisms.

Over the last few weeks, I have spoken extensively about the issue of the drone materials and would refer specifically to my statement of May 14 of this year. While Senators may disagree with the administration's policies regarding the use of drones for lethal counterterrorism operations—and I have raised concerns about some of those operations—it is important not to conflate the confirmation of David Barron with the disclosure of Justice Department memoranda over which he had no control. He wrote an analysis of the law. Others make the decision of what they will do.

Yesterday the Justice Department made the right decision by agreeing to publicly release the redacted version of the legal justification for the government's potential use of lethal force against U.S. citizens in counterterrorism operations. I welcome the administration's additional step toward greater transparency.

Incidentally, these materials have been available to all Senators in recent weeks. We have had them in the unredacted form in a secure room here in the Capitol. We did that so that nobody could claim: Well, if only I knew what was in those memos, I could make up my mind. Every single Senator has had an opportunity to read them before today's vote.

We have heard some Senators argue that the Justice Department legal analysis provides the government with a blank check to use lethal force against Americans in places such as Germany or Canada. Oh my God, talk about grasping at straws. We are dealing with reality here, not Alice in Wonderland. Such a claim is simply inaccurate, inconsistent with the understanding anybody would have reading these materials.

In any event, the Attorney General has confirmed that Anwar al-Awlaki is the only American who was specifically targeted and killed since 2009. Awlaki was a senior operational leader of all of Al Qaeda in the Arab Peninsula, located in Yemen. He directed the failed attempt to blow up an airliner over Detroit on Christmas Day 2009. He was continuing to plot attacks against the United States when he was killed, according to the Attorney General.

I am glad a number of Senators share my deep regard for the constitutional rights of Americans and have spoken about that on the floor. I hope that after Mr. Barron is confirmed, they will show they really believe what they have been saying by joining me and 21 other Senators in cosponsoring the USA FREEDOM Act to help restore America's constitutional and privacy rights.

Finally, both Mr. Barron and a long list of bipartisan supporters have forcefully refuted any indication that he views the role of a judge as that of a policymaker. In a response to a question from Senator GRASSLEY, Mr. Barron stated the following under oath:

> The judicial obligation is to set aside whatever personal views one may have and to decide the particular case at issue. A judge must base the decision in any case solely on the facts and the law, while respectfully considering the arguments of the litigants. I would take that obligation to be an inexorable one, just as I felt obliged to set aside any personal views I may have had in providing legal advice within the executive branch while serving as the Acting Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Legal Counsel and as a career lawyer in that Office. I believe the best way to ensure one honors that obligation is to immerse oneself fully in the particular facts of the case and the law relevant to it and then to apply the law faithfully to those facts.

Mr. Barron's respect for the rule of law was recently reaffirmed by Stanford Law Professor Michael McConnell, a well-respected conservative scholar and former George W. Bush appointee to the Tenth Circuit. In a letter dated May 7, 2014 in support of Mr. Barron's nomination, Professor McConnell stated:

> I suspect that on particular controversial issues, Barron and I disagree more often than not. But I have read much of his academic work, and followed his performance as acting head of the Office of Legal Counsel. In my opinion, his writings and opinions have demonstrated not only intelligence (even where we disagree) but respect for the rule of law. In the Office of Legal Counsel, whose functions closely resemble those of a judge, Barron's publicly released opinions indicated that he was consistently a force for legal regularity and respect for the constitution and laws of the United States. That is an important and precious thing.

I ask unanimous consent that Professor McConnell's letter be printed in the RECORD at the conclusion of my remarks.

It should be clear from Mr. Barron's testimony and Professor McConnell's letter that David Barron would faithfully discharge his duty as a judge in a manner consistent with the Constitution. Senator GRASSLEY cited yesterday to some statements made by Mr. Barron in his academic writings, but as Professor McConnell noted in his letter:

> It is important to bear in mind that academic legal writing in constitutional law is often exploratory and provocative. No one should assume that an academic would take the same approach toward deciding cases that he does in writing about cases.

Professor McConnell should know, as he is a prolific academic who was similarly able to discharge his duty as a judge faithfully and consistently with the Constitution when he served on the bench. As a reminder to Republicans who are currently opposing Mr. Barron's nomination on these grounds, I will note that the Senate unanimously confirmed Professor McConnell's nomination to the Tenth Circuit by voice vote in 2002 during the George W. Bush administration.

Mr. Barron is truly an outstanding nominee. So outstanding, in fact, that Professor McConnell called him ''one of President Obama's two or three best nominations to the appellate courts.'' I would urge all Senators to vote to confirm Mr. Barron to the First Circuit.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

STANFORD LAW SCHOOL,
May 7, 2014.

Hon. Senator HARRY REID,
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.
Hon. Senator MITCH MCCONNELL,
Republican Leader, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.
Hon. Senator PATRICK J. LEAHY,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.
Hon. Senator CHARLES GRASSLEY,
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.
Re Letter of support for David Barron.

DEAR SENATORS REID, MCCONNELL, LEAHY, AND GRASSLEY: I do not often interject myself into the politics of judicial confirmations, but in the case of David Barron I make an exception. In my opinion, David Barron is one of President Obama's two or three best nominations to the appellate courts. Based on his scholarship and record of public service, he has the potential to be one of this nation's outstanding jurists.

It should be obvious that my assessment does not stem from political agreement. Barron has described himself as an advocate of ''progressive constitutionalism''; I believe the Constitution should be interpreted without a partisan lens, in terms of the principles reflected in its text and history. I suspect that on particular controversial issues, Barron and I disagree more often than not. But I have read much of his academic work, and followed his performance as acting head of the Office of Legal Counsel. In my opinion, his writings and opinions have demonstrated not only intelligence (even where we disagree) but respect for the rule of law. In the Office of Legal Counsel, whose functions closely resemble those of a judge, Barron's publicly released opinions indicated that he was consistently a force for legal regularity and respect for the constitution and laws of the United States. That is an important and precious thing.

Some groups have been described Barron as ''an unabashed proponent of judicial activism.'' That characterization, frankly, demonstrates a lack of familiarity with the tone of much academic debate over constitutional issues. Within that framework, Barron stands out as an advocate of lawyerly restraint. It is important to bear in mind that academic legal writing in constitutional law is often exploratory and provocative. No one should assume that an academic would take the same approach toward deciding cases that he does in writing about cases.

In ordinary times, Barron's legal ability and professional integrity would suffice to ensure his confirmation. But unfortunately, in recent decades, and especially during President George W. Bush's presidency, the opposition party has taken a more ideological and adversarial posture toward judicial nominations than the framers of our Constitution intended. It is understandable that Republicans today would apply the same adversarial standards to President Obama's nominations as the Democrats applied to exemplary nominees of his predecessor. It is my hope that eventually, this process of mutually assured destruction will pass, for nominees of both parties. That cannot be expected to occur without mutual accommodation and confidence that the same standards apply to nominees from both sides.

Nonetheless, David Barron's nomination should be supported by Senators of both parties. Perhaps the most significant constitutional questions of our time arise from the unilateral use of executive power in both the domestic and international arenas. David Barron has written powerfully on this subject, demonstrating a balance between the need for an energetic executive and the centrality of law and the legislative branch. He has supported efforts to adopt laws to enable judicial review of executive actions that might otherwise escape judicial review because of lack of standing, and has written powerfully about the need for constitutional limits on executive excesses.

Some may wonder whether Barron's defense of separation of powers against executive unilateralism, which he articulated in the context of the Bush presidency, will survive intact in a presidency he supports. That is a legitimate question. No one knows the answer. But speaking as a fellow legal academic and sometime nominee, I believe that David Barron is a straight shooter and will not trim the sails of his deep-felt constitutional convictions on account of the different direction of political winds. One of this nation's proudest claims is that the limitations of constitutionalism hold firm without regard to which party is in power. I believe David Barron will carry on that tradition.

Beyond generalizations about judicial philosophy, this nomination has encountered resistance because of Barron's authorship of opinions in the Office of Legal Counsel justifying drone attacks by American forces on specified individuals abroad. The Administration's public legal defense of these strikes, especially by Attorney General Eric Holder, have been less than convincing as a legal matter. It is important for Congress to consider the legality of these strikes, but I strongly urge that Barron's nomination to the First Circuit not be collateral damage to this debate.

The pertinent question for this nomination cannot be whether any Senator agrees or disagrees with the practice of drone strikes. Barron was not Commander in Chief and he did not order the strikes. He has not been nominated to a position with authority over drone strikes, so his view of those strikes is relevant only to the more general question of his suitability to be an appellate judge on a court of broad jurisdiction. His job as acting head of the Office of Legal Counsel was to advise the President based on the traditional legal authorities of text, history, and precedent. He must be evaluated in light of that role.

Of course, neither I nor anyone else can evaluate the legal arguments made in Barron's OLC opinions until they are released. But whatever their content, it is difficult to imagine that they would place Barron outside the mainstream of professional legal judgment. The question of drone strikes is novel and much debated, and the authoritative legal sources are scant. It is far from clear that the Due Process Clause even applies to military attacks on targets in places abroad where American law does not run. If it does, it is equally unclear what kind of process is required when split-second decisions are made that could save countless innocent lives. These are discussions that should occur in the proper place, but a judicial nomination is not the forum for their resolution.

Ultimately, this confirmation requires a judgment about judicial character. The most important characteristic of a great judge is not brainpower or empathy, but the willingness to apply rules of law dispassionately and unflinchingly to all cases, regardless of the political context. My sense from long conversations with David Barron, and review of his writings and legal opinions, is that he is such a person. I urge members of the Senate to give their advice and consent.

Best regards,

MICHAEL W. MCCONNELL.

Mr. LEAHY. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

EXPIRE ACT

Mr. WYDEN. I wish to speak for a few minutes about the urgency of passing the tax extender bill and describe to our colleagues all the bipartisanship that has gone into this important effort.

This bill is truly urgent because America's employers file their taxes quarterly, which means they are paying higher taxes today without this tax extender package, which means less money for hiring and training workers, less money for buying new equipment, and less money for investing in innovation and growing jobs at home.

For example, a restaurant owner who needs to replace a walk-in freezer to keep their business running is going to pay higher taxes because they can't, in effect, hold down the costs through the provision in the tax bill. That means they will be cutting shifts and cutting workers.

This bill is just as urgent for millions of other American families; for example, a family with a college student who is registering for summer school this week and is going to lose a tuition tax break and homeowners whose place is now worth less than they paid for it. They finally caught a break recently from their lender, and without this legislation they will now face a real tax increase on phantom income. So that is why this bill is so timely, so urgent.

I am going to spend a few minutes talking about the extraordinary bipartisan team effort that went into putting this legislation together, getting it through the Finance Committee, and sending it to the Senate floor. The process began almost immediately after Chairman Baucus went to China, when my staff and I began working with Senator HATCH and his staff, as well as other committee members on both sides of the aisle.

We recognized that this would not be an easy bill to write, so Senator HATCH and I agreed to limit the focus of the legislation to tax extenders, the stop-and-go tax policies that we both think should end with comprehensive tax reform. After a lot of sweat equity put in by Democrats and Republicans on the committee, I introduced the EXPIRE Act, and that was the beginning of the bipartisan odyssey to make sure this bill was passed—and passed quickly—so as to deal with those urgent needs I described.

Before the committee met for markup, Senators offered 93 amendments, including 36 from Republicans. My team and I worked with both sides of the committee to incorporate 13 amendments into a modified bill. Eleven of them had Republican sponsors or cosponsors.

Then when the committee got together for markup, there were additional amendments—seven more approved, including three from Republicans.

This bill is thoroughly bipartisan. The committee held to the agreement Senator HATCH and I struck to keep the focus on tax extender policies, and I want to make one thing very clear. Those bipartisan amendments—the ones we have already included—have made the legislation better. If you want the best proof, look at the amendment offered by our colleagues Senator ROBERTS and Senator SCHUMER, a Democrat and a Republican. It did important work to strengthen the tax credit for research and development. By the way, this bipartisan amendment built on another bipartisan idea, a first-rate idea from Senator COONS and Senator ENZI to improve the credit; in particular, to make it more attractive for the small businesses, those businesses across the country starting in a garage. It would allow innovative startups to use the R&D credit to help pay their employees' wages.

This is smart policy—not Democratic policy or Republican policy—because it encourages American innovation, the engine of economic progress, and makes that engine stronger than it is today. It is going to make it easier for young companies to hire new workers, and it is exactly the kind of bipartisanship that the country is making it clear it is hungry for.

There are other bipartisan examples I could cite that all prove the same point, but I wish to wrap up by saying now the Senate has the chance, using exactly that procedure, to make the bill even stronger. It was made clear last week by the majority leader, by myself, and others that we are open to amendments that build on what went on in the committee. By the way, there are lots of them.

I was here on Friday until late week and through the weekend talking to colleagues, an equal number of Democrats and Republicans. It would be one thing if there weren't a lot of germane issues, relevant issues, to choose from. That is not the case. There are dozens of amendments from Senators on both sides of the aisle that directly relate to the topic in question—these stop-and-go provisions that have expired—and if we don't move to renew them, our economy is going to get hurt in ways I have described.

Our goal all along on the Senate floor has been to replicate exactly the kind of bipartisanship that went on in the Finance Committee. I absolutely believe that is still possible. That is why I described it.

As soon as the vote was cast last week, I spent the weekend looking for a bipartisan pathway. We had encouraging calls over the weekend indicating that both sides of the aisle wanted to work together to make progress. We had additional conversations about this through the week. Some Senators were concerned they wouldn't have a chance to offer any amendments whether they focused on tax extenders or not. But as I said then, and I repeat now, I am open to hearing from colleagues on both sides of the aisle about their amendments. I can keep repeating it again and again, but I hope the point is getting through.

If I had brought a billboard to the floor, as sometimes people do, the billboard would say: ''BRING ON THE AMENDMENTS'' in big capital letters.

I will wrap up by saying I know the bill is not the legislation that every Senator wants, and—if I had my first choice—we would be working on comprehensive tax reform rather than the extenders, but it hasn't been possible to do that. Today the Senate needs to focus on the urgent business at hand; that is, making sure our people don't get punished.

If the Senate doesn't act on this bill, we would be punishing veterans coming home looking for jobs, we would punish innovators, we would be punishing small businesses, punishing those homeowners who are underwater on their mortgages, and punishing students with the mountains of debt.

I close by saying any colleague who is for that let me know because I don't know of a single Senator, not one, who thinks that is a good idea—when our economy is so fragile—to weigh it down with a tax hike. There aren't any Senators who are telling me they want to subject American families and business to yet more uncertainty about their tax bill.

So our legislation, our bipartisan legislation, would keep that from happening. It is absolutely essential that the Senate come together in a bipartisan way, build on exactly what we did in the Senate Finance Committee, and get this legislation across the goal line.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

Mr. SCHUMER. First, let me compliment our new chairman of the Finance Committee. He is doing a great job on this bill. He is keeping the tenor bipartisan as he has done throughout his whole career. He has only been there a short while, but he is taking to the chairmanship like a fish to water.

I wish to follow up. There is so much that is bipartisan in this bill. It was a bipartisan bill that passed out of committee unanimously. I worked on an amendment with Senator ROBERTS that Senator COONS had originated for the R&D credit with Senators CARDIN, ISAKSON, and BLUNT to improve the section 181 live production incentive so we keep the film industry here, not London or Canada; Senators PORTMAN and CARDIN worked on energy efficiency; Senators BROWN and PORTMAN on disadvantaged workers; and CANTWELL and ROBERTS on low-income housing tax credit. The list goes on and on. As a result, this bill has broad support: the Business Roundtable, Grover Norquist, as well as the NEA and Feeding America.

So where are we. And I would like to further elaborate on what the chairman has said. We are willing to vote on amendments.

I always think of my dear friend from Tennessee, LAMAR ALEXANDER, who remembers how the place used to work and constantly reminds us—and that is a very good and salutary thing in this body. He would say on most bills there would be bipartisan support in the committee. The ranking member and the chair would get together with a list of amendments, each for his or her side, and they would come up with the list.

We are willing to do that. In fact, Leader REID has been extremely generous. He said we are not going to decide it should be this one and not that one, as long as the amendments are germane to this extenders bill. Of course we can't open the whole Tax Code for debate or debate the merits of the ACA on this bill. This is not the type of bill to do that.

It is a bipartisan bill, as Chairman WYDEN outlined, that is very necessary. So we would plead, almost, with our colleagues on the other side of the aisle, for the sake of the country, come up with some amendments, a list. If it is 100, obviously Senators WYDEN and HATCH will have to whittle it down. If it is five or six from your side and five or six from our side and they are germane to extenders, we will have to vote them up or down.

But the cry from the other side—which I have sympathy with, even though I don't agree that they tell the whole story—is let us do amendments. We are answering that plea. Leader REID has made it clear, Chairman WYDEN has made it clear we are not going to pick and say we will do this one and not that one.

The only two limits that I can tell are time—we can't do 100 or 200 of these, but as the Senator from Tennessee constantly reminds us, that is not going to happen—nor can we go far afield way beyond the bounds of this bill. Germaneness makes sense in such a bipartisan and important bill, but other than that, let's let it rip.

I know my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are discussing this. I know they are very serious about it. I have talked to colleagues on the floor, in the gym, and in the corridors of these bodies about getting this done.

It is so important for the country. Even beyond that, if we can't work in a bipartisan way on this bill, which was put together by Senators WYDEN and HATCH in such a bipartisan way, which has so much input from both sides of the aisle and where the offer is let's do amendments, not picking and choosing—we will pick this one, not that one—simply limited to what the bill is all about, germaneness, then we will not get anything done.

I want my colleagues on both sides of the aisle—on my side of the aisle, so many Members—and I sympathize with them—who desire to legislate and do

amendments, we have made that offer. HARRY, the leader, the chairman, and I am fully part of this, have made the offer to let's do amendments.

We hope the folks on the other side—it is sort of a little bit of a test. I am not throwing down any kind of gauntlet, but if we can't come up with a way to legislate on this bill, a bipartisan bill that has the support of the left, right, and center, that everyone agrees with, as Senator WYDEN outlined how much America needs them, what are we going to be able to be legislate?

We have a little time. We have 1 week where we can discuss this while we are in our districts working away. Let's get this done. I plead with my colleagues—''plead'' is the right word, the right verb—come up with a list. We will come up with our list, and then let's roll up our sleeves, get to work on the floor, and pass this bill.

I believe if we do, the other body will. The other body—one other point—has different ideas. They want to make a few of these permanent. That is a legitimate amendment in the bounds that Leader REID has talked about. Let's vote on it. Let's debate it and vote on it. That is what we are supposed to do. If the other body's wisdom prevails, it will make it easier to pass the bill. Even if the other body's wisdom doesn't prevail, they will see that our body has a chance to debate it and decide on it.

Again, we are willing not to pick amendments—I know there is a complaint on the other side of the aisle that our leadership picks which amendments. We are not doing that. All we are saying is they ought to be germane to tax extenders, focused on the issue at hand, which is the extenders. This is not a bill that came out of a figment of the imagination of four Democratic Senators with no Republican input.

If we can't legislate on this bill, then what bill can we? I would ask my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, ask them to get us the list they come up with of amendments they wish to vote on.

I yield the floor, and 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. COBURN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

WRRDA CONFERENCE REPORT

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, I wanted to spend a moment or two talking about the Water Resources Reform and Development Act conference report, and I want to say to my colleagues, both in this Chamber and in the House, some improvement in the WRRDA reauthorization has happened, but it is not nearly enough.

From 1986 to 2010, the average new authorizations were over $3 billion a year, and the average amount of money was $1.8 billion a year. So we have been going backwards all that time. In this report, they did deauthorize less than 10 percent of the $80 billion in backlogged projects. Their attempt to take some of the political nature out of it is a good attempt, but it is not nearly complete and will be gamed, just as we have seen in the past.

What really hasn't happened in the WRRDA bill, and partly because they do not have the authority to do it, is to change the Corps of Engineers. There has never been a project the Corps of Engineers doesn't want to build, and there has never been a study they do not want to do, because what that means is their budget continues and their jobs continue. So we do not have that distinct independent voice we can rely upon because bureaucratic malaise and self-interest trumps it every time.

There is another critical problem with this report. The inland waterways trust fund is out of money. We steal it every year. Like Social Security, the money has been stolen and spent. Yet they change the requirement for inland waterway repairs. It used to be if it was under $8 million, we would pay for it out of the general fund—not the trust fund—but now they have moved that to $20 million. In essence, what that says is we are going to do things that are the responsibility of the trust fund but we are going to charge the American taxpayer rather than the users of the inland waterway to do these repairs. We have a lot of those in need of repair on the McClellan-Kerr waterway in Oklahoma.

So there is a little sleight of hand, another smoke and mirrors set from the Congress of the United States to the American people about not being truthful about what they are doing. We need a priority of projects. We need discipline within the Corps of Engineers. There is none. There is no discipline. It is turf protection and bureaucratic excess continued as normal.

What we should have done is to deauthorize about $40 billion worth of the projects that are presently in line and really put a priority on what is most important for the Nation, not what is most important for a certain Congressman or a certain Senator to look good at home. Unfortunately, we didn't have the courage to do that. We didn't have the strength of character to do that. We wouldn't stand and defend that. So what we did is make minimal progress—and there is some progress; I will admit it—but it is certainly not enough to get my vote. When we fix symptoms of disease rather than fixing the real disease, all we do is delay the onset of the cure, and that is exactly what we have done with the water resources conference report.

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and 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. ISAKSON. 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. ISAKSON. I ask unanimous consent to address the Senate for up to 5 minutes as if in morning business.

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

HONORING OUR VETERANS

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, on the last Monday of every May our country pauses to commemorate Memorial Day and honor the men and women who died in wars around the world in defense of freedom, liberty, peace, and the United States of America.

This coming Monday is no exception. I urge my fellow Members of the Senate, all Georgians, and all Americans, to take a moment sometime over this weekend to pause and give thanks for the sacrifices made so we can do what we are doing here today, and so Georgians and Americans can do what they do on the lakes, beaches, and mountains of our country as they celebrate Memorial Day.

I was honored and pleased to travel to eight of the American cemeteries in Europe—in Italy, Luxembourg, Great Britain, and France, particularly Normandy, on the 70th anniversary of D-day, which is coming up—and pay tribute to the thousands of graves of Americans who went overseas in World War I or World War II and gave their life—sacrificed and died—so we can live in freedom and peace today.

Our Armed Forces are a great gift to us. They never ask for anything in return. They always give their service to our country. They swear their allegiance to protect and defend our domestic tranquility, and every single time they do the job.

Today we know they are deployed in Afghanistan, we know they are deployed in Africa, we know they are at sea—both on top of the sea and under the sea—and in the air, always looking to see that America is safe and free from harm.

I encourage all of my fellow citizens to say a special prayer of thanks this weekend for the men and women who sacrificed and died on behalf of our country, and on behalf of freedom, liberty, and peace for all mankind.

There is no secret that there is a scandal at the Veterans' Administration. We don't know how pervasive and we don't know how deep. But it surrounds the appointments and the cooking of the books in terms of appointments and services to our veterans and the VA health care system.

I know they have a hard job, but their first job and their main responsibility is to see to it our veterans get the health care they deserve, the health care we promised them, and the health care we are going to see to it they get.

I want the President to exhibit leadership and make sure we have a rudder

in the water so we sail the ship of state in the right direction in terms of the VA, and let the chips fall where they may—including if the Department of Justice should be involved in case there is any criminal intent or criminal activity. To cook the books or lie to the Federal Government would, in my opinion, be a crime and people should be held accountable. But to call for the head of just one person without going through the entire VA is wrong.

Last August I held a hearing in Atlanta because we had three untimely deaths in the Atlanta VA—two by suicide, one by drug overdose. All three were determined to be the fault of the VA in terms of the mental health ward in particular and the lack or failure to follow up on appointments. That was the beginning of my awareness of what was happening in Georgia.

To Georgia's and Secretary Shinseki's credit, we replaced the Director in Georgia with Ms. Wiggins. Ms. Wiggins now meets with me on an every-other-month basis to go over the activities in the VA—and when we had an incident 6 weeks ago, she was the first to call me before the news media, saying a mistake had been made and punishment had been issued, and she was going to see to it that VA had a 100-percent record of service to the veterans. We need that attitude and approach in every single VA hospital, VA clinic, and VA medical facility in the country.

I hope the President will exhibit the leadership necessary to call on every element of government—from the inspector general, to the Justice Department, to the VA itself—to get to the bottom of what has gone wrong, because it is intolerable, it is unacceptable, and it is wrong, here on the doorstep of a holiday where we celebrate those who sacrificed their life for our freedom, if there are veterans losing their life because of our inability to serve them in the VA hospitals.

I hope the President will exhibit that leadership. I hope we get to the bottom of it. As one member of the veterans committee, I pledge my commitment to get to the bottom of it. Our veterans deserve no less.

I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOKER). The Senator from South Dakota.

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

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

INTERNET TAX FREEDOM

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the Internet Tax Freedom Forever Act, legislation I introduced on a bipartisan basis with my colleague Senator RON WYDEN to make the expiring Internet tax moratorium permanent. Because of the moratorium Americans have not been taxed on Internet access for 16 years, but this is going to change and new taxes will be levied starting in November if Congress doesn't act soon.

I am proud to work with Senator WYDEN on this bill, the lead Senate sponsor of the original Internet Tax Freedom Act that passed in 1998. This landmark law known as ITFA imposed a Federal moratorium that stopped State and local governments from placing taxes on Internet access. This moratorium has been extended three times, and it has been critical to the rapid growth of the Internet.

As we all know, the Internet provides unprecedented economic and social benefits. Mom and pop businesses in places such as South Dakota, Oregon, and across America found access to consumers and new business opportunities that are only possible through the Internet. Job seekers and entrepreneurs are finding opportunities that were once difficult to discover. Educators are exploring innovative tools and techniques that are powered by the Internet to equip students with the skills they will need for the 21st Century, and health care professionals are remotely providing services that are saving lives in rural areas. The idea behind the moratorium is straightforward. By not taxing Internet access we encourage broadband adoption and investment, which spurs all of the exciting activities that I just mentioned.

The Internet is a gateway to tremendous societal benefits. It is, frankly, astounding when you consider that it wasn't very long ago that the Internet was considered a novelty and only for the tech savvy. Today it is a must-have resource, the existence of which we almost take for granted. We cannot take for granted, however, that the moratorium on Internet access taxes has contributed to the Internet being accessed by hundreds of millions of Americans every single day. Thanks to the 16-year ban, consumer access to the Internet is free from State and local taxation for nearly all Americans. This gives consumers a welcome break on their monthly bills.

In the commerce committee we talk a lot about finding ways to encourage greater broadband deployment across all of America, and as cochair of the Congressional Internet Caucus, I worked with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to find ways to promote the Internet as an engine of economic growth and economic freedom. One of the ways that we can do that is by making broadband more affordable.

State taxation of Internet service will make broadband more expensive, which is at cross-purposes with our goal of encouraging Internet access and deployment. This doesn't make a lot of sense. The moratorium also benefits consumers by prohibiting multiple and discriminatory taxes on goods and services sold over the Internet. This means consumers won't be taxed by multiple States on the same sale and States won't tax Internet sales more than mail order or telephone sales.

Unfortunately, the Internet tax moratorium is set to expire on November 1. Because of this, many Internet service providers are planning to send out notices to their customers informing them that they may have to start paying taxes on Internet access if Congress fails to act. I expect that many millions of Americans who use the Internet will not be happy when they realize that their phone or Internet bill is going to suddenly increase. Two things are for sure: Expiration of ITFA will not encourage more Americans to get online to do commerce, civic engagement, or social media; and countless Americans will be calling Congress demanding that we keep taxes off of Internet access.

Rather than wait for angry constituents, let us be proactive and pass the Internet Tax Freedom Forever Act without delay. My bill with Finance Committee Chairman WYDEN provides for a permanent extension of the moratorium. By passing a permanent extension we will provide certainty to Internet consumers in every State. Making the moratorium permanent also means that Congress won't have to waste time and energy passing yet another extension, year after year, into the future. There are plenty of other areas for Congress to focus on.

Our bill also eliminates the grandfather clause that currently allows 6 States to tax Internet access. Eliminating the moratorium's grandfather provision will provide consumers and businesses with a tax break. This includes consumers and businesses in my State of South Dakota, where our legislation will make Internet access less expensive, thus helping to encourage broadband deployment.

The Internet Tax Freedom Forever Act currently has 46 cosponsors, nearly half of the Senate. The bipartisan cosponsors of the legislation understand the tremendous benefits provided by ensuring Internet access is not taxed and the discriminatory taxes are not applied to the Internet. I strongly encourage my colleagues in the Senate to join Senator WYDEN and me and the 46 other cosponsors in this fight. When the Senate reconvenes after the Memorial Day recess, we should move quickly to extend the tax moratorium and to ensure that Americans don't wake up on November 2 with new, unexpected taxes.

In the coming weeks and months, I plan to continue raising the need to pass our bipartisan legislation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

WRRDA CONFERENCE REPORT

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, later today we are going to have the opportunity to pass a very important bill,

the Water Resources Reform and Development Act, the WRRDA bill. The Presiding Officer knows firsthand the importance of this legislation to our ports of New Jersey and Maryland. This is a very important bill, and it is going to get passed. It is going to get signed by the President. It is a bipartisan bill.

I congratulate Senator BOXER and Senator VITTER, our chair and ranking member of the Environment and Public Works Committee, for developing a process where Democrats and Republicans, all members of the Senate, could work to develop the very best water resources bill for our country. This follows in the best traditions of the last Congress, when we were able to pass MAP–21, the surface transportation reauthorization that provided for the building of our roads, our bridges, our transit systems, and the FAA, which dealt with our air highways, dealing with the most modern air system that we could have. We are now moving forward with the Water Resources Reform and Development Act that deals with our Nation's locks, levees, dams, ports, channels, and harbors. There is something in common with both this bill and the two other bills I talked about, the highway and Transportation bill, and the aviation bill. They all involve economic progress and growth, planning for our future, creating the types of job opportunities we need, and having a modern infrastructure in order to carry that out.

This bill is vitally important for my State of Maryland. The Port of Baltimore is an economic engine for the State of Maryland. We have the ninth busiest port in the Nation in Baltimore. The port is No. 1 in the country as far as the roll-on/roll-off automobile and truck import-export service. We are also ranked No. 1 on ores, sugar, and gypsum—the bulk products. Our port is critically important to this country, critically important to our national economy, and vitally important to the Maryland economy.

Last summer the Port of Baltimore entered into a new contract with several car manufacturers—including Mazda—in order to increase its traffic within the Port of Baltimore.

My point is that there are tens of thousands of jobs in my community directly and indirectly related to the activities of the port.

Why is this legislation so important? I will give many reasons, but the primary reason is that we need to make sure we have acceptable sites to deal with the dredge material in order to maintain our harbor's depth so that the big cargo ships can come into our port. That has been a continuous struggle for many years.

Several years ago in Maryland we developed the Poplar Island solution. Poplar Island is a barrier island that was disappearing in the Chesapeake. At one time it was habitable, but it is no longer habitable. It was just about gone. Before Poplar Island, the popular thought was to just pick a site and dump the material and not worry about it. But Poplar Island is not only a site where we can put the dredge material, it is an environmental restoration. It provides a haven or wildlife, birds, and habitat. It offers the original purpose for a barrier island, and that is to protect against the extreme effects of storms. So this is a win-win situation. It gives us a dredge site for the materials so we can keep the harbor at the proper depth, it gives us an environmental plus so we can deal with wildlife in the Chesapeake, and it protects against the extreme weather conditions that occur too often.

It was absolutely essential to change the authorization in order to be able to continue to use Poplar Island as a site for dredge material. In this legislation, we get that done. We accelerated the Army Corps' reports, we got it back in time, and now that location will be available for many years to come in order to accept the dredge materials so we can keep the harbor dredged at the appropriate level.

There is also authorization in this bill to make sure our harbor is maintained at its current depth. We have gone even further than that. We have planned far into the future by now authorizing Mid Bay, the next Poplar Island for the Chesapeake. It is a barrier island that is disappearing, and it will be restored and used for economic purposes and dredge material, and it will also be converted into a positive for the environment and protect us against storms.

That is what this bill means to my State, and that is just one example. We could mention examples all over the country.

With regard to the Chesapeake Bay, I have taken to the floor many times to talk about it. Mr. President, $1 trillion of our economy comes from the bay. Watermen, fisheries, tourists, commerce, and real estate values are all affected by the quality of the Chesapeake Bay.

We made commonsense reforms to the environmental restoration program in the bill we will be voting on this afternoon. There is a lot in here.

I thank Senator WARNER, my colleague from Virginia. The oyster restoration program is also in this bill, which is vital in order to restore the oyster crops in the Chesapeake Bay. We are making progress on oysters in the bay, and we need to continue that effort. The bill we will have a chance to vote on this afternoon will allow us to continue to make progress on oyster restoration in the Chesapeake Bay.

There is a continuing authorities program—reforms to those programs. I mention that because some people may not pick this up, the legal significance of the changes we are making on the continuing authorization programs. Those programs will help our smaller communities.

In Maryland and New Jersey there are a lot of smaller communities that very much depend upon projects which may not be as big as Poplar Island or Mid Bay, but they are very important for the local community.

For example, in Cumberland we have a dam that needs to be removed. As a result of the enactment of the legislation we are going to be taking up this afternoon, it is going to be easier to get that type of project accomplished.

We have barrier island restorations off Crisfield on the lower Eastern Shore which will be assisted by the changes we make in this legislation. We deauthorize certain portions of two channels of the lower shore. That is important because the community needs and wants to have boat slips in that area. By deauthorizing, they can do that, and that will improve the community.

Those are the commonsense changes we have made as a result of the legislation we will be voting on this afternoon.

I want to mention one other provision that is in this bill, and I really want to thank the conferees. I was proud to be a part of the conference committee. Senator BOXER and Senator VITTER conferred with us frequently, and we came out with a good, bipartisan, bicameral bill. This is a responsible bill that will help the economy.

We also put in the report reauthorization of the State revolving fund. We have not reauthorized the State revolving fund since 1993. This is a program that is critical to our State and local governments in dealing with how we treat our waste. The wastewater treatment facility plants get their funding from the State revolving fund. It is important to get it authorized, and that is in the bill we will be taking up this afternoon.

I introduced the reauthorization bill in 2009. In that bill I would have liked to have seen the program more robust than it is today. This is a reauthorization that allows us to at least make some significant improvements in the State revolving fund.

We deal with green infrastructure and make it easier for green infrastructure in our wastewater treatment plants. We address water recapture and reuse. Water is a valuable commodity. We take steps in this bill to do that.

As to energy efficiency, we waste a lot of energy in our water infrastructure. This bill makes us more energy efficient, which helps our country and helps our environment. It helps economically disadvantaged communities have a better shot at dealing with wastewater issues.

There is a lot in here that will help everything from the smallest to the largest community and our economy. This is a good day for our Nation because we are going to pass the bill. The bill passed with over 400 votes in the House of Representatives. We are going to pass this bill and the President is going to sign it. This is a good day. Our water infrastructure will have a brighter future. The modernization of our

water infrastructure gives us a brighter future for our economy.

I was proud to be on the conference committee that developed the bill and proud to join the Presiding Officer from New Jersey in moving this bill forward, and I look forward to the vote this afternoon.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. VITTER. 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. VITTER. Mr. President, I rise today in strong support of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act. We are going to be considering the final conference report on that legislation and voting on it in a few hours. This WRRDA bill is a strong, bipartisan bill. It is a jobs bill. It is very much needed in our weak economy. That is why we need to move forward and finally pass this into law. It is also a pretty good example of how this place should work, how we can work in a bipartisan, constructive way, how we can move forward as an institution and find common ground on these sorts of important matters.

Earlier this week the House passed the WRRDA bill 412 to 4. That is pretty much unheard of. I am not sure resolutions expressing admiration for Mother Teresa passed by that vote in the House, so that is a strong testament to the broad, bipartisan, pro-jobs nature of the bill. Again, it is because WRRDA has a sharp focus on what our country desperately needs right now: job creation, as well as improved storm and flood protection, and enhanced national commerce, particularly in our maritime sector.

This bill invests in our Nation's waterborne assets and landside infrastructure to grow jobs and to keep us competitive in global markets. Ensuring our ports and waterways are operated and maintained, thereby improving the flow of commerce in that way, will create jobs. Being prepared for the Panama Canal expansion will increase imports and exports, and that will create jobs. Providing flood and storm damage protection for communities large and small and businesses all along our Nation's coasts and waterways is necessary, it is important, and will also create jobs. So let me underscore: The WRRDA bill will not only grow our economy, it will directly put Americans back to work.

Let me mention some of the specifics of the bill. Before I talk about what the bill does, let me start with what it doesn't do. It absolutely does not increase the deficit. It absolutely does not contain any earmarks as defined under our rules or the House rules. In fact, the Wall Street Journal recently editorialized in strong support of the bill as a fiscally responsible way to address infrastructure needs. In fact, the bill even has a deauthorization provision—a mechanism to provide authorization offsets for the important and necessary positive authorizations the bill contains.

Now what does the bill do? Well, Corps of Engineers reform and accountability, No. 1. That is very important. It includes commonsense solutions to streamline project delivery and environmental decisionmaking.

The bill went to great lengths in making the Corps transparent and accountable to Congress and their non-Federal partners. For instance, this WRRDA requires the Corps to open their financial ledgers to show how taxpayer dollars are being spent and mandates timeframes and costs for feasibility studies which have taken several years and millions of dollars to complete. So it narrows those issues and constrains them.

To strengthen the project delivery timeline, the bill includes language to speed up the environmental review process to ensure there are not unreasonable delays in getting projects built.

The bill will also implement, for the first time ever, monetary penalties on the Corps for missed deadlines and reports. Failure to provide a specific report means funds from the general expenses account of the Civil Works Program are subtracted from that part of the Corps, and they go to the division of the Corps with responsibility for getting the work done. So there is appropriate penalty and incentive to make sure the work is done.

WRRDA also authorizes 34 Corps projects for navigation, flood protection, and ecosystem restoration. But, as I said, it also includes a real deauthorization process to decrease the nearly $60 billion construction backlog and offset these new authorizations with equal or greater deauthorizations. I thank Senator BARRASSO for this key provision. He authored it. It was refined and expanded by our colleagues in the House. I think it is a very important initiative.

We also include a provision that began as a stand-alone bill by myself and Senator NELSON last year. It puts significant project management control in the hands of State, local, and private entities to try that on a pilot basis and to see if it leads to reduced delays and reduced costs. That is what we do with most highway projects. The Federal Highway Administration is not the project manager of those projects. It doesn't take the lead. That is what we should do with water projects as well and not demand that an already overburdened Corps of Engineers has to be the lead project manager on all of those projects.

The second important category in this bill is the harbor maintenance trust fund. In order to advance our Nation's waterborne commerce and help drive our Nation's economy, this bill makes sweeping reforms to that trust fund. It is no secret that the harbor maintenance trust fund is grossly mismanaged and that in a good year half of the revenue going into that so-called trust fund is stolen—taken out—for completely unrelated purposes, even though that revenue is supposed to be dedicated for the purposes of the trust fund. We have to stop that. So WRRDA changes that status quo and requires a ramp-up in annual funding, incremental increases over 10 years to get to a full spend-out of trust fund revenue in 2025. Additional yearly harbor maintenance trust fund monies will be prioritized with ports which move 99 percent of our Nation's commerce—those high- and medium-use ports getting the highest prioritization. But there is also a limited but important low-use and underserved port set-aside to ensure adequate maintenance there and economic growth.

WRRDA also adds additional metrics to the harbor maintenance trust fund, in addition to commercial tonnage. We now include oil and gas activity, commercial fishing, and transportation of persons—important metrics that were ignored previously in an unfair way.

Without the full utilization of the harbor maintenance trust fund, negative impacts will be felt by manufacturers, producers, shippers, and carriers throughout America. They ultimately contribute to this trust fund to get dredging and other work done. We need to live up to our end of the deal and make sure that money is used for its intended purpose. That has never been more important than now with the expansion of the Panama Canal. We need to do the dredging. We need to be prepared for that economic opportunity.

A third important category in the bill is the inland waterways trust fund—another trust fund also with significant but different problems. WRRDA looks beyond our harbors to address serious concerns related to the delivery of projects on that inland waterway system and helps accelerate the construction of aging locks and dams, many of which have far exceeded their project design life. According to the American Society of Civil Engineers, the average age of our locks is over 60 years old and that continues to cause unwanted delays in the shipment of goods. By the year 2020, more than 80 percent of these locks will be functionally obsolete. This is extremely concerning, considering that more than 70 percent of our imports and exports travel this inland waterway system.

Again, the American Society of Civil Engineers estimates that underinvestment in this inland waterway system cost our businesses $33 billion in 2010, and that could rise to $49 billion in 2020 unless we act. This WRRDA bill takes action in the inland waterway trust fund, clears out some of the backlog

and clears out some of the things preventing important projects under that trust fund from getting done.

Another very important category which I certainly deeply care about, considering the State I represent, is flood protection and levee safety. Not only does WRRDA authorize critical flood protection projects, but it also strengthens levee safety initiatives to provide critical funds to State and local agencies to make sure levees and flood protection systems stay up to par. There are over 15,000 miles of Federal levees and almost 100,000 miles of non-Federal levees protecting communities all around the country. However, many are graded as in unsatisfactory condition. These levees protect nearly 43 percent of the Nation's population, so we need to make sure they are strong and adequate. This levee safety initiative will provide national and local leadership the resources they need to promote sound technical practices and to keep up with aging levee and protection systems.

Most important for this program is levee rehabilitation funding. It is imperative that our non-Federal sponsors have the ability, both technical and financial, to repair and rehabilitate levees. Storm surge and floodwaters are damaging to our economy. We must address this. In the experience of Hurricane Katrina, for instance, about 80 percent of the catastrophic flooding of the city of New Orleans was due directly to breaches in the levee system due to inadequate design or maintenance—flawed design at the beginning and inadequate maintenance continuing. Literally 80 percent of that catastrophic flooding was completely avoidable, completely manmade—that part of the disaster. We need to make sure that never happens again.

Certainly, in all of these categories I am talking about, there are major benefits to Louisiana. I thank all of my Louisiana partners who have done so much to give me the information and the expertise we needed to address these important areas, including Morganza to the gulf, which is very important to Lafourche and Terrebonne Parishes, as well as our ecosystem restoration projects under the Louisiana Coastal Area Program, and many other important Louisiana priorities. Again, we could only address those properly with the full help and partnership of those Louisiana partners.

In closing, I wish to thank many folks, and I will start with those Louisiana partners. As I said, they were instrumental in helping us get the Louisiana piece right, and I thank them, and that work will continue and that partnership will continue.

I thank Chairman BARBARA BOXER, a Washington, DC, partner on this bill. As she has said many times, the two of us don't agree on a whole lot of things, but we do agree on infrastructure needs and we do agree on this WRRDA bill, and we came together, as a result, very constructively, very productively on this infrastructure work, as we are doing right now on the next highway bill. Certainly that has been an important tradition at the EPW Committee, which we are continuing. The crucial element there is the will and determination to do it, and she always provided that will and determination, as did I. I thank her for being such a great partner.

We also had great House partners: Chairman SHUSTER and Ranking Member RAHALL. They exhibited real leadership in getting a House bill done to begin with and then working with us on a productive conference committee. I thank them and their staffs for all of their work.

Speaking of staffs, I am deeply indebted to all of the staff work that went into this bill. It was very significant. The chair and I personally dealt with probably a couple dozen issues and semicrises that would crop up over time. Our staffs, in contrast, did that multiple times over—hundreds and hundreds of problems and issues before they developed to the Member level, literally hundreds and hundreds.

I thank both staffs, but I am particularly indebted to my staff for all of their hard work, particularly Charles Brittingham, Zak Baig, Chris Tomassi, Sarah Veatch, Rebecca Louviere, Jill Landry, Luke Bolar, and Cheyenne Steel. They put enormous hours into this bill and I truly appreciate their work.

I certainly want to also recognize and thank Chairman BOXER's staff, particularly Bettina Poirier, Jason Albritton, Ted Illston, Mary Kerr, and Kate Gilman.

In closing, I strongly commend this WRRDA bill to the Senate. It is a strong bipartisan jobs and infrastructure bill. It is what we need to do more of, and it is the model we need to adopt more in the Senate: working together on important projects across party lines. One key reason we were able to do it successfully is we had a strong bipartisan process and an open process that invited participation from all sides, including significant floor amendments to the Senate bill. That was absolutely crucial to moving the bill in a productive way through the process.

We will try to implement the same approach with the highway bill. We reported a strong bipartisan highway bill out of our committee unanimously last week, but we need to bring it to the Senate floor. We need to act well in advance of the highway trust fund running out of money around August. I hope we expand on this work. I hope we use this model, including an open-floor process, in many other areas on many other bills.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this WRRDA bill.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I come to the floor to speak in support of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act, also known as the WRRDA bill.

I thank Senator VITTER for his work on this bill. Of course, I also thank Chairman BOXER for her leadership in shepherding this bill through, when I think many people thought it would be a very difficult year to get a major infrastructure bill done. She was able to do it, work with Senator VITTER, work with the House most significantly, and we are very pleased with this bill.

I support this legislation because it will keep invasive carp out of Minnesota's northern lakes. It will help towns across the country advance critical flood protection projects. It will address overdue port and harbor maintenance on the Great Lakes. It will also ensure that navigation will remain strong on the inland waterways system, including the powerful and important Mississippi River, which of course starts in my State in Itasca State Park, where one can literally walk over the mighty Mississippi.

Minnesota's fishing and boating industries contribute around $4 billion to our State's economy every single year. For Minnesotans, being on the water is more than just a way of life. It is also part of our State's culture, part of our heritage, and it is certainly part of our economic engine, but that way of life is under threat right now because of invasive species of carp, also called Asian carp. They were imported and accidentally released into the Mississippi River years ago. How I would love to reverse that moment when they were accidentally released in the Southern States into the Mississippi River, but it happened, and years later we are still stuck with the consequences.

Anyone who has not seen the YouTube video, I would suggest you view it—of these Asian carp literally jumping out of the water, hitting fishermen in the head because they eat so much every single day, and of course they are eating the fish we have come to rely on in our State for great food and also great recreation.

As these invasive carp have worked their way farther upstream, we have learned they are not deterred by cold winters, which was once thought to be the case. Today invasive species of carp are knocking on our doorstep. They have been found around Winona, MN, and they are already in the St. Croix River.

Minnesotans know we cannot simply wish the problem away. The problem is literally swimming and jumping into our lives. That is why I authored the Upper Mississippi CARP Act, which would close the Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock in Minneapolis. My lock closure provision included in the Water Resources Reform and Development Act conference report will simply require the Army Corps of Engineers to close the Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock within 1 year following the date of enactment.

The language is a product of years of working with State and local stakeholders, and today, with the passage of this provision, we will take a significant step forward in the fight against invasive species to make sure they do not move up into Minnesota's northern lakes.

This provision has the support of Senator FRANKEN and also Representatives ELLISON, PAULSEN, WALZ, and NOLAN in the House. It was bipartisan. It was supported by Governor Dayton and the City of Minneapolis, as well as a large number of environmental and wildlife organizations, including Minnesota Trout Unlimited, the National Wildlife Federation, the Mississippi River Fund, the Minnesota Izaak Walton League, the National Parks Conservation Association, and the Friends of the Mississippi River, just to name a few.

It is also supported by countless anglers across Minnesota, and I appreciate the broad support we have had. It is not easy closing a lock, and we know there were some limited uses of the lock by certain businesses that during the winter do not use the lock but use barges, and we know the city will be working with them. We also know the kayaking community was using the lock, and I truly appreciate their support in closing down this lock. We had a tour boat that was using this lock, and they no longer use it.

Then of course we had the Army Corps there. We worked with them. It was not easy at first, but I have appreciated their work. We know in an emergency the lock could be opened again. But this is not just a study; this closes down this lock in 1 year.

I also want to thank my colleagues who worked with me on this provision who may have similar locks and dams and were concerned about what precedent this would set. We were able to make this a very focused provision, so we did not get resistance in the end, and they actually worked with me on compromise language, got it in the Senate, and I thank my colleagues in the House for using this exact provision in the House bill.

Closing this lock is supported by many people. I remember meeting with a group of kayakers who, despite being impacted by the lock closure, told me: ''We're with you on this!''

Recreational users of the Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock have taken voluntary steps, as I mentioned, to limit their use of the lock to reduce the chance of allowing invasive carp to spread upstream, but we knew we had to go further, and that is what we are doing today with the passage of this provision.

Although making the decision to close the lock was not done lightly, it is right for our State. We know invasive species of carp can dominate the environment and make up an astounding 90 percent of the biomass in the river. They outcompete prized sport fish. They make waterskiing unsafe for families, and they make boating in our lakes and rivers smelly and even dangerous.

In Minnesota, the Department of Natural Resources and the Metropolitan Council studied the economic impact of closing the Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock and also the economic value of recreation activities upstream of this lock. They found that for every one job dependent on the lock staying open, over eight jobs rely on recreational boat trips upstream of the Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock.

Closing the Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock is a key part of a strategy to protect Minnesota's waters for future generations, but the fight against invasive carp does not end here. I will continue to fight for an ''all of the above'' solution to this challenge that includes closing this lock while also supporting research and carp barriers to protect other bodies of water in Minnesota.

Solving this problem will require the continued cooperation of Federal, State, and local stakeholders all working together, and the passage of the lock closure provision is a leap forward, but of course it only helps with Minnesota's northern lakes. We are already seeing problems in the southern rivers, and we need to develop that research.

There must be a way to eliminate these carp—by giving them food that will not kill other fish, by doing things with bubble barriers, and other ideas that have been brought forward. I know the State of Minnesota is working on that. I know the State of Wisconsin is working on that—and people all over the country. The Federal Government must play a role, and we must protect our Great Lakes, but we also must not forget our waterways.

The WRRDA bill also advances critical flood protection projects, including the Fargo-Moorhead—or as I like to call it, being from Minnesota: the Moorhead-Fargo—diversion project which will protect Moorhead, MN, and Fargo, ND, from flooding caused by the Red River of the North.

I have seen firsthand how hard people in the Red River Valley work to prepare for a potential flood. The Presiding Officer knows what this is like in New Jersey with his hurricanes, but I can tell you in Minnesota we literally have to plan for it every single year. They literally have warehouses for people putting sand in bags, anticipating this flooding. In a number of years we nearly lost these two major cities.

This is not the way to do this, as much as we love our volunteers—our seniors, our school kids, and everyone else—who have gathered together to get this project done and have stopped their lives for weeks. It would be much better to have permanent flood protection.

I have worked with Senator HOEVEN, of course, and Senator HEITKAMP. They have both taken a lead, as well as Senator FRANKEN, to get this done.

The region avoided flooding this year. The river has been, however, in major flood stage 6 out of the last 8 years. In 2009—the year of the record flood—the river rose to more than 40 feet. In Minnesota and North Dakota, the Red River does not divide us. Working together, it actually brings us together and unites us, and it is that spirit of solidarity that drives our efforts in the Red River Basin.

Floods damage homes, destroy crops, and hold entire cities hostage. The Fargo-Moorhead flood diversion project is critical to safety and economic development in the region, and finding a permanent solution to the issue makes much more economic sense than continuing to fight the flooding and repair damages year after year.

The WRRDA bill also helps address flood protection for Roseau, MN. Roseau has recovered from a flood in 2002 that caused widespread damage, but the area needs flood protection to reduce the flood stages in the city. The next phase of the Roseau diversion project will reduce future flood damages by nearly 86 percent. I thank COLLIN PETERSON, the Representative who represents Roseau, for his work on getting this funding. The families and businesses of Roseau have waited too long for flood protection, and the WRRDA bill ensures the project will be completed.

But the WRRDA bill does not just protect property; it also strengthens our economy. The competitiveness of our economy is directly tied to the strength of our infrastructure. This includes upgrading and modernizing our ports, our harbors, and our waterways.

The harbor maintenance trust fund collects $700 million more each year than it spends on dredging and maintenance. Meanwhile, our ports and navigation channels wait for basic maintenance.

Coming from New Jersey, the Presiding Officer may think of New Jersey as having ports. Well, we have a major port—one of the biggest ports—in Duluth, MN, that connects goods from the Midwest—not just from Minnesota, from all over the Midwest—to the Great Lakes through the St. Lawrence Seaway. It is a major port and brings goods in from the rest of the world.

The backlog of sediment due to insufficient dredging is more than 18 million cubic yards and is estimated to cost $200 million. The WRRDA bill helps correct this disparity and ensures that funds are spent to address the needs of shippers and that the Great Lakes system does not fall into further disrepair.

When ships on the Great Lakes have to light load—which means they have about 10 percent less cargo than they should have—when they have to reduce their cargo because channels are not deep enough, our whole economy suffers, not just the shippers, not just the people who are producing the goods. Our whole economy suffers when we have to ship 10 percent less than we could on these ships and instead we are bringing it in from other parts of the world. This does not make any sense at all.

That is why I cosponsored an amendment with Senator LEVIN that establishes the Great Lakes ports as a single navigation system and sets aside additional funding for the Great Lakes ports.

This provision will help ensure maintenance and dredging is done throughout the Great Lakes system. We are so excited about this. It is finally warming up in Duluth. In northern Minnesota, it is no longer colder than Mars. Our ships are ready to go and transport goods. We want them to be at their full capacity. The only way we can achieve this is by dredging some of these areas where we have seen some major problems.

The bill also makes critical reforms to our Nation's rivers and waterways. The inland waterways system in this country spans 38 States and handles approximately one-half of all inland freight. With many maintenance and construction projects years overdue, the inland waterways are in dire need of major rehabilitation.

The inland waterways trust fund, which funds these projects, is in steady decline. If we do not strengthen it, the industries that so heavily depend on the inland waterways system and the people that work for these industries—critical jobs—will suffer. That is why I cosponsored the RIVER Act with Senators CASEY and LANDRIEU to help move forward major construction projects on the inland waterways system, including much-needed rehabilitation of the locks and dams on the Mississippi River.

A number of the provisions of the RIVER Act are included in the final WRRDA bill, including reforms to the project management process that will help ensure waterways projects are completed on time and cost overruns are minimized.

I also supported Senator CASEY's amendment to increase the inland waterways user fee. Let me emphasize that the user who pays this fee asked for it. They agreed to pay this fee. We have a case of a win-win situation where the businesses that use these locks and dams want to actually pay more money to upgrade them because they need to carry their goods to market.

I think the Presiding Officer knows the only way we are going to advance here in this economy on an international basis is if we are making stuff, inventing things, and sending them overseas instead of everyone sending their goods to America. We are not going to do that without a modern transportation system. Here we have businesses that are employing tens of thousands of people, hundreds of thousands of people, that are willing to pay extra money to upgrade our locks and dams. That is all this is about.

Industry partners, from farmers to shippers to companies such as Cargill in my State, strongly support this user fee increase. The increase was their idea. They know this modest change will go a long way to ensuring that our Nation's rivers are viable for years to come. The fee increase did not make it into the WRRDA bill because it is a tax provision. There are some good things in this bill for locks and dams. I do appreciate how the industry worked so well with me on allowing this provision of the closure of the one lock in Minnesota to stop the invasive species from going up into our northern lakes.

But I also am continuing to work with them to upgrade our locks and dams throughout the country. One aspect that would truly help is this fee that businesses are willing to pay. It is exactly what we want—private money going to upgrade our infrastructure. So we need to get this done. I will work with them in the future to get it on any bill we can so we can upgrade this country's locks and dams.

Again, I commend Chairman BOXER and Ranking Member VITTER and all of the WRRDA conferees for putting together this bipartisan legislation. From keeping invasive carp out of our waters, to fighting to protect towns from flooding, investing in critical waterway infrastructure, to making sure our harbors are at 100 percent, this legislation is vital to the economy, our environment, our cities and towns. I will be proud to vote for it today.

I yield the floor.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MENENDEZ. I thank the distinguished Senator from Arizona and a distinguished member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee for his courtesy. I know he will be making comments in which I share his concerns and for which he has been very outspoken. I will try to condense my effort here.

On Monday, the Department of Justice announced that Swiss bank Credit Suisse pled guilty to the criminal charge of helping American citizens cheat on their taxes, and agreed to pay a $2.6 billion fine. The bank admitted to using bogus entities to disguise undeclared U.S. accounts from American tax authorities, and it admitted to helping its clients arrange large cash transactions to skirt U.S. reporting requirements.

The guilty plea means that the bank will be punished for its transgressions, and it serves as a warning to others who would engage in or enable tax evasion. But astoundingly, Credit Suisse will not be required to disclose additional names of U.S. citizens who hired the bank to help them cheat on their taxes and evade prosecution by U.S. authorities.

As the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations reported earlier this year, the Justice Department has only been able to obtain the names of 238 Credit Suisse customers out of 22,000 U.S.-owned accounts at the bank. The reason for this is simple. Swiss bank secrecy laws forbid Credit Suisse and other Swiss banks from sharing information about their clients with U.S. tax authorities, even if those clients are actively violating U.S. tax laws.

Luckily, we have a simple solution, one which we could enact right now with the agreement from this body. On April 1, the Foreign Relations Committee, with strong bipartisan support, reported out favorably a new protocol amending our tax treaty with Switzerland. For decades, tax treaties have played a key role in facilitating greater and more transparent trade and investment. They have helped protect American companies from double taxation and made it easier for them to explore new markets and business opportunities.

They do this all while simultaneously protecting U.S. taxpayer privacy and information confidentiality. They enhance our efforts to prevent tax avoidance or evasion. The new protocol with Switzerland would not permit Swiss banks, like Credit Suisse, to withhold information on U.S. individuals who have, for years, hidden behind Swiss bank secrecy laws to avoid paying U.S. taxes.

The protocol brings our tax treaty with Switzerland into conformity with both the entire internationally accepted standards on the information exchange as well as the most recent U.S. model tax treaty. It includes an arbitration provision to ensure that when disputes arise between the U.S. and Swiss tax authorities over issues like the exchange of information, these disputes will be resolved expeditiously, rather than dragging on and frustrating cross-border tax enforcement.

The Swiss government has already ratified the protocol. We should do the same. Credit Suisse pled guilty to abetting tax evasion—a criminal charge. But they were not forced to disclose the names of actual tax evaders because doing so would violate Swiss bank secrecy laws. Ratifying the treaty with Switzerland is therefore necessary.

It will enable U.S. authorities to obtain information about these and other tax evaders who are still taking advantage of bank secrecy laws to avoid paying their fair share.

I ask unanimous consent that at a time to be determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the Republican leader, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 9, treaty document No. 112–1; that the treaty be considered as having advanced through the various parliamentary stages up to and including the presentation of resolutions of ratification; that any committee declarations be agreed to as applicable; that any statements be printed in the RECORD as if read; that if the resolution of ratification is agreed to, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). Is there objection?

Mr. PAUL. Madam President, reserving the right to object, as you know, I have been a critic of these treaties for some time. This discussion has gone on for quite a while. I disagree with many of the implications of where these treaties would take us. But I realize there are some beneficial aspects of the treaties.

But because of the critical invasion of privacy that these treaties would allow, I cannot support them. These treaties are an encroachment on our privacy and our constitutional right to privacy. Many of the previous treaties that we have had in the past focused on information specific to tax fraud.

I am not opposed to getting the information of those who have committed fraud or broken the law, but you must have an accusation, you must submit some proof.

We are going to have bulk collection of records without suspicion.

As previously stated in the previous treaties, the information that was exchanged in the past under the current treaties had to show that they were for preventing tax fraud. The new treaty, though, is going to change the standard from looking for tax fraud—which seems to be what everybody is talking about—to saying that we will look for financial information that may be relevant.

What we are doing is taking the standard down to something ''may be relevant,'' which could be a dragnet for getting everyone's information. It will be a deterrent to foreign investors both in our country as well as in other countries. I think at the very least every American, whether at home or abroad, deserves the right to the fourth amendment protections guaranteed by the Constitution.

I want the record to be very clear. I certainly do not condone Americans who have not followed the letter of the law, but I can't support a law that endangers regular foreign investment and punishes every American regardless of whether there is suspicion that they have committed a crime.

While I want the important benefits included in the tax treaties to be ratified, I cannot support a treaty that would pave the way for a law that would permit the IRS to share information of customers at U.S. banks with foreign governments. Imagine, we will be conceivably sharing information about customers here with governments that may well not even be our friends. Also, I cannot support a treaty that may facilitate the bulk collection of private financial data for all U.S. citizens living abroad. For those reasons, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Very briefly, I am disappointed because basically what we are going to do—those of us who are law-abiding and pay our taxes have to suffer the consequences of those who cheat and go abroad to do so. When they do that, they undermine the ability of this government to have the resources to arm the men and women who serve us abroad, protect them, take care of their health care, and deal with the challenges of educating the next generation of Americans.

Let me just say that this question that the treaty somehow infringes—first of all, if Switzerland is not a friendly country, I don't know what is. It is not a question of a country that isn't friendly, so let's remove that objection.

The treaty supposedly infringes on the fourth amendment rights of U.S. citizens. Look, these bilateral tax treaties only permit the exchange of information that is foreseeably relevant to the collection of taxes.

The proposed treaty also provides protection against fishing expeditions. To exchange information, the requesting country must demonstrate that the individuals targeted have engaged in activities that suggested they are engaging in fraud.

The existing treaty with Switzerland requires the requesting country to establish tax fraud or fraudulent misconduct as a basis for the exchange. That standard has clearly proven to be too narrow for the purposes of prosecuting tax evasion, as demonstrated by the outcome of this Credit Suisse settlement, where the bank still does not have to hand over the names of individuals who use Credit Suisse accounts to hide their income.

Now the wages and U.S. bank account interests of Americans are both reported to the IRS. There is no reason why people with foreign bank accounts should be able to hide their money from the IRS in a way that average, hard-working Americans cannot. It boggles my mind that we are going to treat average, hard-working Americans in a different way than those who have the money to cheat and ultimately avoid their responsibility to our collective society, so we will continue to raise this issue.

I won't expound upon it any more—I have plenty to say—in deference to the Senator from Arizona, who was gracious enough to yield the floor.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to address the Senate as in morning business for such time as I may consume.

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

SYRIA

Mr. MCCAIN. The Middle East today is engulfed in an escalating regional conflict. The space for moderate politics in country after country is collapsing, and a process of radicalization is increasingly destabilizing the entire region. At the center of this growing conflict stands Syria, where for over 3 years now the Syrian people have faced an onslaught of unspeakable violence from President Bashar al-Assad and his forces.

As of today more than 160,000 Syrians have been killed, over half of the population is in urgent need of humanitarian assistance, and 9.3 million people have been driven from their homes in what the United Nations has described ''as the greatest humanitarian tragedy of our times.'' To give some sense for the scale of the growing refugee crisis, there are now 1 million registered Syrian refugees in Lebanon. That makes up one-fourth of the total population of the country. This does not include the thousands who are living there unofficially and unregistered. This is as if the entire population of Canada were uprooted and became refugees in the United States of America—twice over.

Without understanding the scale, it is hard to comprehend the stress on resources and the escalating tensions that these refugees have caused in neighboring countries. Can you imagine what we would do as Americans if we were dealing with the entire population of Canada living as refugees in our country? Inside Syria, they are confronted with the inhumane cruelty of Mr. Assad and his forces every day.

We have seen evidence of this systematic abuse, torture, starvation, and killing of approximately 100,000 detainees, in what clearly amounts to war crimes and crimes against humanity. The United Nations has detailed the further arrest, detention, torture, and sexual abuse of thousands of children by government forces. Human Rights Watch has documented how Syrian authorities have deliberately used explosives and bulldozers to demolish entire neighborhoods for no military reason whatsoever, just as a form of collective punishment of Syrian civilians.

The United Nations has also documented the toll of the Syrian government's air strike campaign, and, in particular, the regime's use of crude cluster munitions that have become known as barrel bombs. Their sole purpose is to maim, kill, and terrorize as many civilians as possible when indiscriminately dropped on schools, bakeries, and mosques.

Worse yet, evidence is piling up that Assad's forces have been equipping these barrel bombs with chlorine gas. Just last week French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius said that France has evidence of at least 14 chlorine-based chemical attacks carried out by Syrian Government forces since 2013, adding, ''The regime is still capable of producing chemical weapons and is determined to use them.''

Around the same time, a senior Israeli defense official stated that ''from the day that he signed the deal, Assad has used chemical weapons over thirty times, and in every case citizens were killed.''

The State Department has further verified these reports, stating there

were ''indications'' of the use of chlorine—though it was quick to point out that this is not one of the chemicals Syria was obliged to surrender.

So it appears that we are faced with a situation in which the Assad regime has agreed to give up certain chemical weapons after using them to murder nearly 1,400 civilians last year, but it is also using other chemicals—less lethal but nonetheless effective—to continue gassing civilians to death, and the world does nothing about it. Why? Because technically this is permitted under the chemical weapons agreement. That is shameful and outrageous.

What is more, months after the deadline for removing all of its chemical weapons stockpiles, the Syrian Government has yet to fulfill its obligations under the treaty and is using its remaining stockpiles to bargain over the terms of the original agreement in the hopes of retaining its storage and production facilities.

As we are once again faced with images of men, women, and children writhing on the ground and gasping for breath, Assad appears to be disregarding some of his chemical weapons commitments and continuing to commit mass atrocities. Again, redlines are tested and crossed, and the United States of America and the world do nothing.

These are just some of the many reasons our Director of National Intelligence referred to the Syria crisis as ''an apocalyptic disaster.'' But this apocalyptic disaster in Syria is no longer just a humanitarian tragedy for one country; it is a regional conflict and an emerging national security threat to us all. No one should believe that we will be immune to what is happening in Syria. None of us are.

For those of you who look at these far-away events and say what Neville Chamberlain once told himself about a different problem from Hell in an earlier time—that this is ''a quarrel in a far away country between people of whom we know nothing''—don't think that events in Syria won't have repercussions much closer to home. The terrorist sanctuary that Al Qaeda and its associated forces now enjoy in Syria and Iraq increasingly pose a direct threat to U.S. national security and that of our closest allies and partners. Indeed, the Secretary of Homeland Security, Mr. Jeh Johnson, has said, ''Syria is now a matter of homeland security.'' The Director of National Intelligence, James Clapper, has also repeatedly warned that Al Qaeda-affiliated terrorists in Syria now aspire to attack the homeland.

If the September 11 attacks should have taught us anything, it is that global terrorists who occupy ungoverned spaces and seek to plot and plan attacks against us can pose a direct threat to our national security. That was Afghanistan on September 10, 2001, and that is what top officials in this administration are now warning us Syria is becoming today.

The latest U.S. intelligence estimates say that more than 100 Americans have traveled to fight in Syria alongside extremists, joining some of the most dangerous terrorist organizations in the world today.

Earlier this month, FBI Director James Comey stated:

> All of us with a memory of the '80s and '90s saw the line drawn from Afghanistan to September 11. We see Syria as that, but an order of magnitude worse in a couple of respects: Far more people are going there, and far easier to travel to and back from.

Already, senior intelligence officials believe that between 6 and 12 Americans who have gone to Syria to fight have now returned to America, possibly with the intention to carry out attacks here. ''We know where some are,'' stated one senior U.S. intelligence official. Some? But what about the others? Does that reassure you?

The sheer scale of foreign fighters with Western passports traveling to fight in Syria has our senior-most intelligence officers worrying about how easy it would be for these people to slip through the cracks. In March the Director of the National Counterterrorism Center, Matthew Olsen, testified that the NSA simply does not have the ability to track the thousands of jihadists now flocking to Syria. He testified:

> This raises our concern that radicalized individuals with extremist contacts and battlefield experience could return to their home countries to commit violence on their own initiative or participate in al Qaeda-directed plots aimed at Western targets outside of Syria.

First indoctrinated, then trained and equipped, the foreign fighters now joining groups such as the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, known as ISIS—a group who proved too radical even for Al Qaeda's senior leadership—presents a challenge that rises above a mere counterterrorism problem. ISIS no longer exists in small, concentrated cells, conducting operations limited in nature and scope. It has become a real nascent state actor, similar in organization and power to the Taliban of the late 1990s and possessing a real army of foreign recruits capable of carrying out attacks across the world. The territory it possesses is no longer a safe haven within a state. It has become a de facto state that serves as a safe haven and an even more vibrant incubator for international terrorism than did pre-9/11 Afghanistan. It is a saddening irony that as our efforts to eradicate the Al Qaeda safe haven in Afghanistan are proving successful, we see an even more dangerous terrorist sanctuary emerging on the border of Europe between Damascus and Baghdad.

My friends, here is the tragic reality of the war in Syria. After more than 3 years of horror, suffering, devastation, and growing threats to international security, the conflict in Syria continues to get worse and worse both for Syria and for the world. But the United States and the international community have no effective policy to help bring this conflict to a responsible end. The Geneva peace talks have failed entirely, as predicted. Ambassador Brahimi, the U.N. Special Representative, has himself given up on the process and resigned last week. This should surprise no one. The United States and the international community have been reluctant to provide the opposition with much needed material support. Meanwhile, Assad has the active support of Hezbollah, Iran, and Russia and is using nearly every weapon in his arsenal to kill his way to victory, and he is winning. So why would he want to negotiate himself out of power now?

Can we finally stop hiding behind the fantasy of Geneva and admit what has been painfully obvious from the start: that there is no hope for a negotiated solution until the momentum on the battlefield changes against the Assad regime. And that will only happen through greater international intervention of some sort.

After painful and costly experiences in Iraq and Afghanistan, a war-weary American public does not appear eager for an active, internationalist foreign policy, and President Obama has sought to give the American people what they want. While it is understandable and unsurprising that the American public has been reluctant to get more engaged with events in Syria and the wider Middle East, the tide of war does not recede simply because we wish it so.

The outcome of the administration's disengagement has been a consistent failure to support more responsible forces in Syria when that support would have mattered—the descent of Syria into chaos and growing international instability, the use of Syria as a training ground for Al Qaeda affiliates and other terrorist organizations, the ceding of regional leadership to our international adversaries, and the tolerance of war crimes and crimes against humanity. In short, all of the awful things that critics said would happen if we got more involved in Syria have happened because we have not gotten more involved.

We continue to hear from the administration that there are no good options in Syria—as if there ever were good options in the real world—and that the only alternative to our current disengagement is a full-scale ground invasion and war without end. The President frequently has said as much, recently stating:

> It is very difficult to imagine a scenario in which our involvement in Syria would have led to a better outcome, short of us being willing to undertake an effort in size and scope similar to what we did in Iraq.

But this claim has been directly contradicted by other administration officials who recognize that our inaction in Syria is not because we lack options or capability but, rather, the will.

In an April 30 speech at the Holocaust Museum in Washington, our own Ambassador to the United Nations, Samantha Power, said:

To those who would argue that a head of state or government has to choose only between doing nothing and sending in the military—I maintain that is a constructed and false choice, an accompaniment only to disengagement and passivity.

French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius has also highlighted this false choice, recently expressing his regrets that Western nations did not carry out threatened airstrikes against the regime following the August 2013 chemical attack and that more had not been done to stop the abominable behavior of the Assad regime. He stated:

We regret it [not carrying out threatened airstrikes] because we think it would have changed everything.

That is a French Foreign Minister who regrets that we didn't carry out the airstrikes because ''we think it would have changed everything.'' In his comments he made it clear that a limited surgical strike would have made all the difference in Syria and would have stopped the chemical attacks that continue today, saved the lives of thousands of people, and prevented the devastating consequences that have reverberated around the world since that red line was crossed.

It is true our options to help end the conflict in Syria were never good, and they are much worse and fewer now. But as Mr. Fabius pointed out, as bad as our options in Syria may be, we still have options. No one should believe that doing something meaningful to help in Syria requires total war or invasion. Literally no one is calling for that, and it is intellectually dishonest to suggest so. This is not a question of options or costs or capabilities but a question of will.

The continued violence in Syria is expected to kill tens of thousands more and produce millions of refugees by the year's end. This is a humanitarian tragedy, to be sure, but one with immediate strategic consequences. The longer the devastation goes on, the more difficult it will be to put Syria back together again. Failing to do so will leave a dangerous conflagration in the heart of the Middle East—a failed state at war with itself where extremism and instability will fester and terrorists of all brands will find ample space, resources, and recruits to menace the region and eventually attack the United States.

If ever there was a case that should remind us that our interests are indivisible from our values, it is Syria. We cannot afford to go numb to this human tragedy. I have seen my fair share of suffering and death in the world, but the images and stories coming out of Syria haunt me most. In the time I have been speaking, at least two Syrians have been killed, 45 Syrians have become refugees, and 15 Syrian families have been forced from their homes. In another 15 minutes from now, two more will be killed, 45 more will become refugees, and 15 more families will be forced from their homes. Is that acceptable to us?

Neither the United States, Europe, nor the Syrian people can afford the cost of defeatism. The price of abandonment includes not only a failed state in Syria but an entire region teetering on the brink of disaster, and it means emboldening our adversaries and conceding a safe haven and a state to the world's most dangerous terrorist groups. While these are the real, tangible consequences we face, it also means conceding the moral sources of our great power and giving up on every principle our Nation was built on.

All of us, Americans and Europeans, must recognize that our power confers a responsibility on us. If the most powerful nations in the world have the capabilities and the options to help bring to an end one of the most horrific mass atrocities in modern times, what does it say about us that we have not done so? History will render a bitter and scathing judgment on America and the world for our failure in Syria, and I pray we will finally recognize that and take the necessary actions to help the Syrian people write a better end to this sad chapter of world affairs.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD two articles, one entitled ''FBI Director: Number of Americans traveling to fight in Syria increasing,'' and the other entitled ''Exclusive: Al Qaeda's American Fighters Are Coming Home—and U.S. Intelligence Can't Find Them.''

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Washington Post, May 2, 2014]

FBI DIRECTOR: NUMBER OF AMERICANS TRAVELING TO FIGHT IN SYRIA INCREASING

(By Sari Horwitz and Adam Goldman)

FBI Director James B. Comey said Friday that the problem of Americans traveling to Syria to fight in the civil war there has worsened in recent months and remains a major concern to U.S. law enforcement and intelligence officials.

In a wide-ranging interview with reporters at FBI headquarters, Comey said the FBI is worried that the Americans who have joined extremist groups allied with al-Qaeda in Syria will return to the United States to carry out terrorist attacks.

''All of us with a memory of the '80s and '90s saw the line drawn from Afghanistan in the '80s and '90s to Sept. 11,'' Comey said. ''We see Syria as that, but an order of magnitude worse in a couple of respects. Far more people going there. Far easier to travel to and back from. So, there's going to be a diaspora out of Syria at some point and we are determined not to let lines be drawn from Syria today to a future 9/11.''

Comey declined to give a precise figure for Americans believed to be involved in the Syrian struggle but said the numbers are ''getting worse.''

''I said dozens last time,'' said Comey, referring to an interview with reporters four months ago. ''It's still dozens, just a couple more dozen.''

A senior U.S. counterterrorism official estimated this year that 60 to 70 Americans have traveled to fight in Syria. Comey said that Americans in Syria are actively recruiting other Americans to join the fight.

Comey said the threat associated with foreign fighters in Syria is of concern not only to the United States but also is ''a huge focus'' of European intelligence officials.

''It's the first thing we talk about when I go visit a counterpart,'' said Comey, who has visited 13 FBI legal attache offices abroad since he became director in September.

Comey said thousands of fighters are traveling to Syria from European countries, and they are a focus for the FBI because many of them could easily get into the United States.

''They're visa-waiver countries,'' Comey said. ''If someone flows out of Syria, they can flow in here very easily.''

Comey said the al-Qaeda affiliate in Yemen remains the greatest threat to the United States. He said the terrorist group is bent on attacking America and that he was very concerned about the group's bombmaking expertise.

[From the Daily Beast, May 20, 2014]

EXCLUSIVE: AL QAEDA'S AMERICAN FIGHTERS ARE COMING HOME—AND U.S. INTELLIGENCE CAN'T FIND THEM

(By Eli Lake)

The number of American extremists who have flocked to Syria is higher than previously understood, American intelligence sources say. And some of the fighters are coming home.

Western intelligence services have been warning that European and American jihadists have been flocking to Syria to fight. But they've been reluctant to say how many Americans have joined the extremist forces there—until now. The latest U.S. intelligence estimates say that more than 100 Americans have joined the jihad in Syria to fight alongside Sunni terrorists there.

Senior American intelligence officials tell The Daily Beast that they believe between six and 12 Americans who have gone to Syria to fight Assad have now returned to America. ''We know where some are,'' one senior U.S. intelligence official told The Daily Beast. ''The concern is the scale of the problem we are dealing with.''

The scale of that problem by all accounts has gotten worse. Last fall, the official U.S. estimate on Americans specifically who have joined the jihad in Syria was in the low double digits. In January, the New York Times reported that at least 70 Americans have either traveled or attempted to travel to Syria. Earlier this month FBI Director James Comey told reporters that he believed ''dozens'' of Americans were suspected to be foreign fighters in Syria, but declined to give a more precise number.

In recent months, the U.S. intelligence community has made the tracking of all Westerners going to fight into Syria a top priority. Speaking in March before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Matthew Olsen, the director of the National Counter-Terrorism Center, described in vague terms an effort by the whole government to find Western citizens traveling to Syria and to track their travel.

''In light of the large foreign fighter component in Syria crisis, we are working together to gather every piece of information we can about the identity of these individuals,'' he said at the time.

More recently, the issue of Western foreign fighters came up in top-level meetings between the Syrian opposition delegation and the Obama administration last week to Washington, D.C.

''We view all foreign fighters as a threat and they are not welcome. There is a convergence of interests between the moderate Syrian opposition and the international community in fighting these foreign fighters and insuring they do not use Syria as a launching pad for external attacks,'' said Oubai Shabandar, a strategic communications adviser to the Syrian opposition's foreign mission in Washington. ''This was a major topic

of conversation this month in meetings with the Syrian opposition delegation and top U.S. officials.''

The problem, U.S. counter-terrorism and intelligence officials tell The Daily Beast, is that there are just so many jihadists with Western passports traveling to fight in Syria that they worry some of them may slip back into the United States without being detected.

''The NSA does not have the ability to track thousands of bad guys—and on the human intelligence side, this is even more difficult,'' another senior U.S. intelligence official told The Daily Beast. ''So we are worried that people are slipping through the cracks.''

Olsen in his March testimony said there were thousands of foreign fighters in Syria and that hundreds of those fighters held Western passports.

''This raises our concern that radicalized individuals with extremist contacts and battlefield experience could return to their home countries to commit violence on their own initiative or participate in al Qaeda-directed plots aimed at Western targets outside of Syria,'' he said. Olsen also said that a group of ''al Qaeda veterans'' from Afghanistan and Pakistan have gone to Syria, making the prospect of recruiting new members for the organization even more likely.

Aaron Zelin, a senior fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy who closely tracks the flow of foreign fighters into Syria, said, ''In the past when we've seen Americans go abroad to fight in foreign countries and a number of individuals have been trained to go back to attempt attacks on the homeland.'' The best example he said is Faisal al-Shahzad, the Pakistani American who traveled to Taliban training camps in Pakistan and then attempted to set off a bomb in Times Square in 2010. Al-Shahzad failed to properly detonate his bomb and was reported to the New York police by a Muslim-American street vendor.

''It's not just Americans who are going to Syria, but there are up to 3,000 European citizens from countries that have visa waivers with the United States who have also joined the jihad in Syria,'' Zelin said. ''This is why so many Western counter-terrorism officials are so worried, it's much easier to get into our country with a Western passport.''

Those Americans that have gone off to fight in Syria also do not fit the typical terrorist profile. Last May, the Detroit Free Press reported that Nicole Lynn Mansfield, a convert to Islam, was killed in fighting in Syria fighting Assad. In April of 2013, a federal court charged Eric Harroun, a former U.S. Army private, with firing a rocket-propelled grenade while fighting alongside al-Nusra, al Qaeda's official affiliate in Syria. If U.S. intelligence estimates are correct, these cases could be unfortunate harbingers of things to come.

Mr. MCCAIN. Madam President, I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader is recognized.

VETERANS HEALTH CARE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, this weekend Americans will gather to remember all who have fought and perished so that we might live in freedom. Memorial Day is our chance to honor their extraordinary sacrifices.

Of course, Kentucky has long played a proud and vital role in the defense of our Nation. I am honored to represent so many Kentuckians in the Armed Forces, including those stationed at Fort Knox, Fort Campbell, the Blue Grass Army Depot, and members of the Reserves and Kentucky National Guard.

One of the reasons Memorial Day is so important to me is because it allows Americans to reflect and give thanks for all that we have—to recognize that none of it would have been possible without so many Americans we have never met putting everything on the line for us. That is why the men and women who protect us deserve our full support when they are deployed, when they are training, and when they return home. Most Americans certainly agree with that statement.

Yet as we have recently learned, that is not what is happening. So many Americans now turn on the evening news just to be sickened by the steady drip, drip from the Obama administration's growing veterans scandal. The denial of care to our veterans is a national disgrace and the scandal only seems to increase in scope by the day.

We first heard about 1 hospital in Phoenix, then we heard about 10 medical centers across the Nation, now there are at least 2 dozen VA facilities under investigation. It all leads to an obvious question: How widespread is this failure to treat our veterans?

We need answers from the President and his administration. The White House claims the President didn't even know about the latest scandal until hearing about it on the news, even though a top official testified he knew of inappropriate scheduling practices at VA health care clinics as far back as 2010. It sure raises a lot of questions.

It is a curious thing. President Obama, the most powerful man in the free world, always seems to be the last to know about what is going on in his own administration. From the Obama administration's IRS scandal to its ObamaCare Web site fiasco, just about every time, the President claims to be in the dark until the wrongdoing surfaces on its own—usually in the press. The pattern is incredibly worrying.

If it is true he learns so much through the press—if he knows that little about what is going on in his own administration—then I recommend he get reengaged. Right now. Right now. Because American Presidential leadership is needed today. This scandal appears to be a failure of huge magnitude, and the people we represent are demanding he rise to the challenge.

Our veterans are counting on him to work with both parties to get to the truth and to pursue solutions that can make things better—solutions such as the VA reform bill that passed the House yesterday with strong bipartisan support. That legislation, which I have cosponsored and which Senator RUBIO has been the leader on, would make it easier to remove high-level VA employees for performance failures. It is a smart idea. There is no reason for us not to pass it quickly right here in the Senate. The President should call for its passage right away too. That would be one positive step forward for him—a small one, but a positive one, even though, for some reason, the White House has been ambivalent about the bill.

Look, we all remember how engaged the President was when healthcare.gov flopped. He was very engaged. He didn't just send a staffer out to Phoenix; he didn't just give a secretary a stern talking to; he didn't say he wouldn't stand for it. He pulled out all the stops. He made it his No. 1 priority to get that Web site running, even if that is still not done. What I am saying is the President should put more effort into helping our veterans than his attempt to fix a Web site. Only he can work with us to get to the truth. Our veterans deserve it. They deserve answers. They deserve accountability, and they deserve solutions.

As we look ahead to Memorial Day, I hope the President will work constructively with us to give them just that—to prove how grateful we are to the brave men and women who protect us every single day.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

BARRON NOMINATION

Mr. MARKEY. Madam President, I rise today to speak in favor of the confirmation of David Barron to the First Circuit Court of Appeals.

As a Harvard Law professor, he has broad bipartisan support from those who know him best—his colleagues. Larry Tribe and Charles Fried—two professors at Harvard who could not be further apart politically—both agree—and this is the joint quote—''Barron is a brilliant lawyer who will make an excellent judge. What is clear to us is that Barron will decide cases based solely on the relevant sources of legal authority, including binding precedent, and that his political views would in no way distort his legal judgment.''

This is the kind of unequivocal support we want for a judicial nominee, and David Barron is just the kind of judge we should confirm.

I stand alongside those of my colleagues who believe transparency is paramount and that we need a public debate on drone policy. Indeed, I support a robust debate on our entire drone policy, not simply the use of a drone to kill an American citizen who was plotting the annihilation of his fellow Americans.

Importantly, the White House just announced that it will release to the general public the key memo Professor Barron wrote, so all Americans will be able to take part in this debate.

But let us be clear: David Barron is not responsible for the administration's delay in releasing the memos he

and others in the Office of Legal Counsel were directed to produce. He is certainly not responsible for the administration's drone policy or the decision to authorize an attack. He is a lawyer who was asked to do legal analysis for his client, the President of the United States.

Entangling David Barron's nomination with the policy of drone deployment is unfair to him and unfair to the people of Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Puerto Rico who need the vacancy on the First Circuit filled by someone as qualified as David Barron.

I believe David Barron will be an excellent judge, and that is why he has my support.

WRRDA CONFERENCE REPORT

Mr. MARKEY. Madam President, I commend the Senate on taking final action on the Water Resources Reform and Development Act, known as WRRDA. Today's bill includes the $310 million Boston Harbor dredging project which will deepen Boston Harbor's main navigation channels.

Boston Harbor is an economic anchor for the entire New England region, and this investment will help ensure its future as a port of world class distinction. Improving the harbor to accommodate more and larger ships will bring more jobs, more investments, and more economic activity to the harbor, extending Boston's position as a shining city upon a hill as well as on the shore.

Dredging the harbor will double the number of containers on ships coming into Boston. The project will also allow the port to accommodate ships being built to serve the expanded Panama Canal, which is planned to open next year.

The Army Corps projects that for every dollar spent on construction, there will be $9 returned in increased economic activity, resulting in a $2.7 billion economic benefit for the entire New England region.

I thank Chairman BOXER and Ranking Member VITTER for their hard work getting this bill over the finish line. I also thank Senator WARREN and Congressman CAPUANO, Congressman LYNCH, and the entire Massachusetts congressional delegation for their leadership and commitment in securing this vital funding.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask the courtesy of the Senator from Nevada to do a brief unanimous consent request.

Mr. HELLER. Madam President, that is fine with me.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 3080

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that following the vote on H.R. 3080, the WRRDA legislation, the Senate proceed to the consideration of Executive Calendar No. 638, the Frank nomination, and vote on confirmation thereof; further, that there be 2 minutes for debate prior to the vote, equally divided in the usual form; further, that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action of debate; that no further motions be in order to the nomination; that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD; that President Obama be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Madam President, with this agreement, at 1:45 p.m., there could be as many as three rollcall votes; however, we expect only two rollcall votes.

I appreciate again the courtesy of my friend from Nevada.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

VETERANS HEALTH CARE

Mr. HELLER. Madam President, on Monday, May 26, our Nation will pause to remember all those who paid the ultimate price while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. It is a solemn day on which we recognize these brave heroes for their valor, their courage, and their commitment to our country.

As we honor and remember those who died fighting for our freedom, Congress must also remember we still have a promise to fulfill to the veterans who thankfully returned home—many with visible and invisible wounds of war. Our Nation has a proud history of caring for its wounded and disabled servicemembers and their families.

When these men and women volunteered their service, the United States guaranteed they would be cared for. As a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, I believe that promise has not been kept.

It is no secret the Department of Veterans Affairs is facing a significant challenge with accountability at all levels of their agency. This failure of responsibility has an impact on the hundreds of thousands of veterans in my home State of Nevada.

Last month I was honored to have a number of veterans join me for a roundtable in Las Vegas. This was an opportunity for me to listen and hear their concerns. By far, nearly every veteran in attendance expressed frustrations with the VA's claims backlog and the health care they are receiving. These veterans told me they feel discouraged and hopeless, that the VA does not and will not keep its promise.

They told me about the negative impact delays in benefits and care have on veterans and their families. Such comments should come as no surprise given the difficulties Nevada veterans are facing. Look no further than the problem of the claims backlog here in Nevada.

Although the Secretary of the VA promised there would be changes to address this problem, Nevada veterans are still waiting the longest in the Nation—up to 352 days on average—for their disability benefits claims to be processed. This is nearly three times the VA's deadline of 125 days to complete a claim.

These issues in Nevada and the allegations raised across the country are causing veterans to lose faith in the VA, and I have raised all these concerns to the Secretary in a letter I sent 2 weeks ago. I asked for immediate answers about the lack of accountability on the local level and whether VA leadership finally plans to do something about it. Although I requested a response by Wednesday, May 21, the VA still has not responded. What these problems ultimately amount to is a lack of accountability in the VA leadership.

When I questioned the Secretary at a Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee hearing last week, he agreed he was ultimately responsible for the problems with VA care and health benefits. Despite this admission and admitting that veterans are not receiving the care they were promised, he said he does not plan to resign. So my question is: If the Secretary does not plan to resign, who is held accountable in the VA?

The VA has been given enough chances to change and do better, but these were empty promises that have not produced any results. It is now up to Members of Congress to take action. That is why I have already taken a number of steps to exert oversight, demand transparency, and develop solutions to the problems facing the VA.

During last week's hearing I asked the Secretary for assurances that the audits being conducted by the VA at its medical facilities would include all of Nevada's hospitals and clinics and the results would be shared with me and the rest of our delegation. As promised by the Secretary, I look forward to receiving these results as soon as possible, and I expect substantive immediate action should Nevada have any reports of mistreatment or delayed care of veterans.

I also visited again with Las Vegas hospital officials last Friday to ensure veterans at this facility are receiving the care they have earned and that the facility is properly handling its appointment waiting times.

It is critical that the Las Vegas VA hospital constantly work to improve its services and follows recommendations from the VA inspector general so that patients do not endure long waits—like the blind female VA veteran who waited for 5 hours before being seen in the emergency room.

I believe the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee should continue to exert

oversight and hold hearings to keep VA officials accountable and transparent to Congress, veterans, and the American public.

Furthermore, I believe, now more than ever, it is time for Congress to take legislative action to fix one of the biggest challenges at the VA—the disability claims backlog.

Despite opportunities for improvement, 293,000 veterans Nationwide and 3,700 veterans in Nevada have waited over 125 days for their claims to be processed so they can get the compensation they have earned and the VA medical care they desperately need.

To address this issue I introduced the VA Backlog Working Group March 2014 Report, along with a bipartisan group of Senators, including Senators CASEY, MORAN, HEINRICH, VITTER, and TESTER. This report outlines the claims process, explains the history of the VA's claims backlog, and offers targeted solutions to help the VA develop an efficient and accurate benefits delivery system that will ensure our veterans will never again have to wait more than 125 days to receive a decision on their claims.

What our working group found was that the process is not only complex, but the backlog has been a consistent problem for more than two decades, largely because the VA is using a 1945 process in the 21st century. I sent every Member of this Chamber a copy of this report and encourage my colleagues to take a look at it to understand how we got to where we are today and what it will take to fix the claims process permanently.

To put this report's targeted solutions into action, our working group introduced the 21st Century Veterans Benefit Delivery Act. This comprehensive, bipartisan piece of legislation addresses three areas of the claims process: claims submission, VA regional office practices, and Federal agency responses to VA requests.

I thank my colleagues—Senators CASEY, MORAN, HEINRICH, VITTER, TESTER, MURKOWSKI, CARDIN, WARREN, KLOBUCHAR, WARNER, TOOMEY, THUNE, ROBERTS, and PRYOR—for joining me to address this very critical issue.

I recognize because the claims process is complex and there is no silver bullet that is going to solve this problem overnight, the VA's current efforts will not eliminate this backlog. It is commonsense, targeted solutions from Congress that will address some of the inefficiencies keeping veterans from receiving a timely decision.

That is why this bill has been endorsed by a number of veterans service organizations, including the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, Military Officers Association of America, and the Association of the United States Navy. I thank these VSOs for their support and collaborating with the working group to develop solutions to fix this problem.

Time and again we have asked our men and women in uniform to answer the call of duty, and they do so without hesitation. Ensuring veterans receive disability benefits and quality VA medical care in a timely manner is the least we can do to thank them for their service.

As a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, it is my role and responsibility to get answers for Nevada's veterans, and I will uphold that commitment to oversight.

In the coming weeks I will be watching the VA closely for changes and improvements to mitigate the very serious lapse in care and services that have occurred. If the VA continues on the course it is currently on, then I think it is time to look for changes at the highest level.

Again, I thank all of our veterans—including the nearly 300,000 that call Nevada home—for defending this country and for preserving Americans' liberties. Their commitment and sacrifice will not be forgotten nor taken for granted.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

LETTER TO THE NFL

Ms. CANTWELL. Madam President, I come to the floor this afternoon to thank my colleagues who have signed on to a letter to the NFL asking that they change the name of the Washington football team. I also thank Leader REID for his leadership on this issue and for trying to accentuate the care and concern he has for 22 tribes in the State of Nevada and their interest in seeing the dignity and respect of those tribes with the name change as well.

I also come to the floor and ask my colleagues who have not signed to sign on to a letter asking the NFL to take action as aggressively as the NBA took action and to move on this issue. I will be sending a letter to each of my colleagues asking them to either sign on to this letter or to write their own letter, as one of our colleagues did. I am convinced that if each Member of this body speaks on this issue and is forceful in their resolve, we can help initiate change.

I know not everybody in America may understand why this is so important. Having personally worked with 29 tribes in the State of Washington, and for a short period of time having served as the chair of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee, and having been a Member of that my entire time in the Senate—this may not even be the top issue in Indian Country. We certainly have understaffed hospitals, challenging school situations, decaying infrastructure challenges, and concerns about fishing rights—whether they are the challenges that ocean acidification has to our fishing ability in the Pacific Northwest or whether it is in Alaska making sure that Alaska Natives who are on subsistence fishing are able to continue to do what they do.

There are many issues in what we refer to as Indian Country that are about the health, safety, and welfare of those individuals. Yet this issue is a reminder to all of us that intolerance in our communities is a problem.

We are here to say that we respect these tribal entities that have requested this name change. We are saying that we have a trust responsibility with these organizations and these individual tribes.

So when the National Congress of American Indians—an organization that represents millions of Americans with Native American backgrounds—calls for a change, the fact that we ignore that is a disrespect to those tribal entities.

There are many organizations across the United States of America who have joined this battle as well: the NAACP, the Anti-Defamation League, the League of United Latin American Citizens, the New York State Assembly, the National Congress of American Indians, the DC city council, the Prince George's County council. Even the President of the United States has spoken out on this issue.

So what is it going to take to get the name of this team changed? I say to my colleagues that even the Patent Office—the Federal agency determining whether a word can be protected in commerce—has said this term is derogatory slang and is disparaging to Native Americans.

We believe Commissioner Goodell should act; that he needs to do what the NBA did and make sure that one of their owners puts an end to the wrong use of a football term and to join the right side of history. We are not going to give up this battle.

Similarly, like organizations who have a Web site on changethemascot.org—which is a great 2-minute to 3-minute video of why Native Americans care so much about this issue—we need to continue to respect the dignity of these individuals, and it is time to update the relationship.

Yesterday at the White House there was an unbelievable ceremony, of which I am of course very proud of—the welcoming of the world champion Seahawks football team. They were walking into the White House where many Native Americans from the State of Washington were all decked out in Seahawks gear. I don't know if it was protocol for the White House. Even though they said nobody was to take pictures, telling a crowd from Seattle not to use digital devices is pretty hard to accomplish.

But there they were—Native Americans from our State who are partners with the Seattle Seahawks. They are advertising partners. They are suite owners. They advertise and participate together. The logo of the Seahawks was designed by a Native American. That is the relationship of the NFL and Native Americans today in the Pacific Northwest. Juxtapose that to here in

the Washington, DC, area where many people have spoken out and yet the owner remains in opposition of changing a name that has been clear to him is found to be racially offensive to Native Americans.

So we are here today to ask our colleagues on the other side of the aisle to join us. Join us because it was hard to unite our side, but I know with a few of their voices we can move this issue further.

Why is tolerance so important? In the words of Kofi Annan, the Secretary General of the United Nations:

> Tolerance, intercultural dialogue, and respect for diversity are more essential than ever in a world where people are becoming more and more closely interconnected.

While that is a global view of the challenge we face, we need to practice that in reality here. That is why I was so happy we passed the Violence Against Women Act with a provision in it making sure that women in Indian Country would also be protected. We have to ask ourselves why did it take us so long to get that provision.

Even the U.N. Special Envoy on Indigenous Rights for Peoples around the world, James Anaya, also said that the NFL should change, basically saying it is a hurtful reminder and represents a long history of mistreatment in the United States of America. He cited the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples:

> They use stereotypes to obscure the understanding and reality of Native Americans today and instead help to keep alive a racially discriminatory attitude.

So even the U.N., the world community, is calling on this community to deal with this issue and we should act. I hope my colleagues will help us in this effort to get the NFL to do the right thing.

I thank the Presiding Officer, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

BARRON NOMINATION

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. There has been considerable discussion on the floor about the nominee to the First Circuit, David Barron, that has hinged around his tenure in the Office of Legal Counsel and an opinion he wrote specifying the outer bounds of Presidential authority in the area of defending our national security against Americans who have signed up with organizations that do us harm. I wish briefly to bring to the attention of this Chamber that it is not the only issue with respect to David Barron and the Office of Legal Counsel.

The Office of Legal Counsel has indeed had a scandal, and it is indeed related to David Barron, but it is related to David Barron in the best possible way, in that he is the one who cleaned up the scandal. The scandal in question—the Presiding Officer is a former attorney general of her State and she will understand this very clearly—the scandal in question related to the shabby opinions that were written by the Office of Legal Counsel to justify the torture program that was run by the Bush administration. When I say shabby, these were awful opinions. They were hidden from most peer scrutiny because they would not have stood up to peer scrutiny. They made errors as basic as failing to cite Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals decisions right on point.

There actually had been an incident in which the Department of Justice, where the Office of Legal Counsel is located, prosecuted a Texas sheriff for waterboarding victims in order to get confessions out of them. He was prosecuted as a criminal. He was convicted. The case went to the Fifth Circuit on appeal and in the course of their written decision on appeal, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals of the United States—one row below the U.S. Supreme Court—described the technique of water torture that was used, the waterboarding, and on a dozen separate occasions used the word ''torture'' to describe what was being done.

Look for that case in the Office of Legal Counsel. Look for that case in the opinion of Office of Legal Counsel about whether torture is accomplished by waterboarding, whether waterboarding is torture. It is not there. They didn't even cite the case. It was a case they could have found in their own files because the Department of Justice was the organization that had prosecuted this sheriff as a criminal for that act.

If you wanted to bring it up as a case and try to find a way to distinguish it, I could accept that. I probably would disagree with that analysis, but the failure to even cite the case, knowing how difficult it would be for the torture program to go forward, I think is a sign of either the worst kind of incompetence or a deliberate fix being put into the opinion of the Office of Legal Counsel.

Having served as a U.S. attorney as well, I think the Department of Justice should have the best lawyers in the country, and within the Department of Justice the OLC prides itself on being the best of the best. It was a disgraceful departure of that standard when the torture opinions were allowed to pass. They simply don't meet any reasonable test of adequacy. So on April 15, 2009, the Department of Justice withdrew the Office of Legal Counsel's CIA interrogation opinions. The memorandum for the Attorney General effecting that withdrawal was signed by none other than David Barron. This was the instance of a man who absolutely did the right thing. He helped clean up a terrible mess that had been left at the Department of Justice. We should be proud of the conduct of David Barron at the Office of Legal Counsel.

I ask unanimous consent that the 1-page memorandum for the Attorney General signed by David Barron be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

WITHDRAWAL OF OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL CIA INTERROGATION OPINIONS

Four previous opinions of the Office of Legal Counsel concerning interrogations by the Central Intelligence Agency are withdrawn and no longer represent the views of the Office.

APRIL 15, 2009.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Sections 3(a) and 3(b) of Executive Order 13491 (2009) set forth restrictions on the use of interrogation methods. In section 3(c) of that Order, the President further directed that ''unless the Attorney General with appropriate consultation provides further guidance, officers, employees, and other agents of the United States Government may not, in conducting interrogations, rely upon any interpretation of the law governing interrogation . . . issued by the Department of Justice between September 11, 2001, and January 20, 2009.'' That direction encompasses, among other things, four opinions of the Office of Legal Counsel: Memorandum for John Rizzo, Acting General Counsel of the Central Intelligence Agency, from Jay S. Bybee, Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legal Counsel, Re: Interrogation of al Qaeda Operative (Aug. 1, 2002); Memorandum for John A. Rizzo, Senior Deputy General Counsel, Central Intelligence Agency, from Steven G. Bradbury, Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legal Counsel, Re: Application of 18 U.S.C. §§2340–2340A to Certain Techniques That May Be Used in the Interrogation of a High Value al Qaeda Detainee (May 10, 2005); Memorandum for John A. Rizzo, Senior Deputy General Counsel, Central Intelligence Agency, from Steven G. Bradbury, Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legal Counsel, Re: Application of 18 U.S.C. §§234–2340A to the Combined Use of Certain Techniques in the Interrogation of High Value al Qaeda Detainees (May 10, 2005); and Memorandum for John A. Rizzo, Senior Deputy General Counsel, Central Intelligence Agency, from Steven G. Bradbury, Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legal Counsel, Re: Application of United States Obligations Under Article 16 of the Convention Against Torture to Certain Techniques that May be Used in the Interrogation of High Value al Qaeda Detainees (May 30, 2005).

In connection with the consideration of these opinions for possible public release, the Office has reviewed them and has decided to withdraw them. They no longer represent the views of the Office of Legal Counsel.

DAVID J. BARRON,
Acting Assistant Attorney General.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I yield the floor and note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HEITKAMP). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUESTS—H.R. 4031 and S. 1982

Mr. RUBIO. Thank you, Madam President.

I am here on the floor today to talk about an issue that has received a tremendous amount of attention, and

rightfully so, in the last few weeks and it is the outrage of what is happening at the Veterans' Administration.

Let me start by saying certainly people need to be held accountable. This should not be and it surely is not a partisan issue. I think we all have a deep commitment to helping our veterans, the men and women who spend time away from their families and put their lives on the line to defend this country, to whom were made promises that when they come back home they will be taken care of, especially those who have been harmed when serving their country.

We are heartbroken and outraged at the news that, in fact, the agency that is supposed to take care of them is not doing so. I think what is even more troubling is that this appears to be a systemic problem. This is not simply an isolated incident in Phoenix or some other institution in the country. This is now rearing its ugly head in every part of this country that we look into. You can imagine not just as an American am I deeply concerned about this but as a Floridian. Florida is a State with an enormous veterans population, including my brother—men and women who have served our country and have done so with great courage and dignity who now have health care needs that require immediate and urgent attention.

Just a moment ago on a television interview it was brought to my attention the story of a young man, a gulf war veteran who has a brain injury, who has been waiting for weeks to even be able to see anyone, in fact has been waiting for months with no end in sight as to when that is going to end. This needs to be addressed.

Yesterday we all watched with great attention as the President addressed this issue and expressed outrage, rightfully so, of what is occurring. What the President said is that over the next week there will be an initial report and ultimately a report at the end of the month about what needs to be done to improve the system and, more importantly, who needs to be held accountable. I think that is critical here, because one of the things we are learning is not simply that there is a systemic problem in the Veterans' Administration, but that there has been a deliberate effort by some within the Veterans' Administration to cover it up or to make things look better than they actually are. That should trouble us even more because the immediate reaction when an agency is confronted with a problem should be ''we need to fix this'' and instead the reaction by some seems to be ''we need to cover this. We need to make this look better than it really is. We need to diminish this.''

This is completely unacceptable and people need to be held accountable for this. If in the Senate among the men and women who serve and work here for us some were derelict in their duties, they would lose their job. If in the private sector someone did not do their job, they would lose that job. In the military chain of command, if a commanding officer of a unit did not do his or her job, they would lose their job, and their superiors would have the ability to immediately discipline them.

So I think many Americans would be shocked to learn that even if the Secretary wanted today to fire executive managers within the agency, he cannot. Instead, he has to institute a long and drawn-out process, leading to this absurd conclusion that you are more likely to receive a bonus or promotion than you are to have been fired because of mismanagement and dereliction of duty. That is completely unacceptable.

We have to remember that the vast majority of the VA's more than 300,000 employees and executives are dedicated and hard-working people. Their Department's well-documented reluctance to ensure that leaders are being held accountable for mistakes is not only tarnishing its reputation, it unfortunately is impacting many of these hard-working men and women who are doing their jobs within the agency.

What I did a few weeks ago, in conjunction with my colleague from Florida, JEFF MILLER, is file a bill. It is a very simple and straightforward bill. The bill states that the VA Management Accountability Act of 2014 would simply give the VA Secretary the power to fire or demote senior executive service employees based on their performance. It is a power similar to the power the Secretary of Defense already has, for example, to remove military general officers from command, and, of course, it is the same power any one of our 100 Senators has to remove a member of their staff.

This bill passed yesterday in the House of Representatives, and it is sitting here on the desk in the Senate. It passed yesterday with an overwhelming bipartisan majority of Members of both parties who are outraged by what is occurring and want to bring accountability.

In a press conference yesterday, the White House indicated that they are very open to this concept and that they were interacting with leaders on it. We called the White House and asked them about it. They also indicated an openness to it, although they shared that they did have some concerns. They didn't make any suggested edits to the bill. They simply said they had some concerns, but in general they were supportive of this concept.

Earlier today during an Appropriations Committee meeting, Senator MORAN offered this very bill as an amendment, and it was adopted by voice vote without a single objection.

Here is where we stand: I have come to the floor today to give my colleagues the opportunity to send this to the President before we leave for the Memorial Day recess. We have an opportunity right now to take up the bill that the House just passed by an overwhelming bipartisan majority, enact it into law by unanimous consent, and send it to the President so he can sign it. So when the results of that investigation come to his desk in a week or month from now, and that of the Secretary, they can discipline and/or fire the people who have not done their jobs and put our veterans in harm's way with regard to services the VA is supposed to offer. That is all this bill does—nothing more and nothing less.

We are giving the Secretary—appointed by this President and confirmed by this Senate—the opportunity to be able to fire employees of his agency who are not doing their jobs. That is all we are asking for. It is not more complicated than that. I do not understand why anyone would not support that concept.

It is right here for us. To everyone around here who is talking about how we need to quickly act, here is your chance. This is a very straightforward bill. My hope is that it will pass unanimously so we can truly say it is bipartisan.

We are not telling them whom they need to fire; we are giving the Secretary the power to hold the people who work under him accountable. This will also apply to future Secretaries as well. That is all this bill does. I hope we will be able to do that today.

I think if it were put to a rollcall vote on the floor, it would pass by an overwhelming majority. That is why, Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 4031, which was received from the House, and I further ask consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, without any intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. SANDERS. Reserving the right to object, Madam President, I thank Senator RUBIO for his remarks, and I think many of us share the exact same concerns he has raised. When men and women put their lives on the line to defend our country, they are entitled to the best quality health care we can provide to them.

In my view and I think in the view of virtually every veterans organization, the VA does provide good-quality health care to those people who access the VA system, but there are very serious problems in terms of access, there are serious problems regarding waiting lists, there are serious problems regarding the possibility of hospitals keeping two sets of books, and we are going to get to the root of those issues.

The one thing we do not want to do is politicize the well-being of America's heroes.

I have a quote from an editorial in the Washington Post:

> The men and women who have served their country in uniform deserve better than delay or denial of the medical care they need and have earned. So it is crucial to get to the bottom of allegations of misconduct at the

nation's veterans hospitals. America's veterans also deserve not to be treated as so many pawns in election-years gamesmanship—but that sadly is proving to be the case in Congress's increasingly hyperbolic response.

It goes on:

That the extent of wrongdoing is unclear doesn't seem to matter much to those more interested in scoring political points. How else to explain the knee-jerk calls, mainly by Republicans in the House and Senate, for the ouster of Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric K. Shinseki or the ill-advised and punitive legislation aimed at VA workers?

I will just make this point: I happen to think the bill that was passed in the House yesterday has many important provisions with which I happen to agree. But as the Senator from Florida knows, we have not held a hearing on this legislation, and some of us are old-fashioned enough to know that maybe folks in the Senate might want to know what is in the bill before we vote on it.

The Senator from Florida is right—it passed with very strong support in the House. In my view, a similar bill containing some of the salient provisions in the House bill will pass the Senate, but it is important that we discuss that bill.

One of the concerns I have is that I do not want to see the VA politicized. It is one thing to say—which I agree with—that if a hospital administrator is incompetent, the Secretary should be able to get rid of that administrator without a whole lot of paperwork. I agree with that. It is another thing to say that if a new administration comes in—whether it is Democratic or Republican—somebody sitting in the Secretary's office can say: I want to get rid of 20 or 30 or 50 hospital administrators because we have other people we want in there. We can just get rid of them, and they don't have a right to defend themselves.

I worry about that.

Clearly we have to discuss the issue. I suggest that the Senator from Florida understands that it is probably a good idea to discuss an issue before we vote on it.

The bottom line for me is, yes, every top administrator at the VA has to be held accountable. I do not want to see an enormous amount of paperwork and obstruction go forward before we can get rid of incompetent people. But before we vote on legislation, it might be a good idea to understand the full implications of that legislation, and there are some aspects of it with which I think some of us have concerns.

I have a few more points on that issue. I hope the Senator from Florida agrees with me that we have to be certain the VA is able to recruit and retain high-quality leaders and managers, especially when the VA is in competition with other Federal agencies for those leaders. To that end it is vital to ensure we are fostering an environment at the VA where individuals feel as if they are protected from the political whims of their leaders. That is the point I made earlier.

There are other areas that concern me in terms of setting precedents that may not be a good idea, but the bottom line is I think there are important provisions in the bill that passed the House. I want to work with Senator RUBIO on this matter, and I think the administration wants to work with him.

If I might, I will make another point, which is that I was very happy to see so much concern being paid to veterans' needs over the last few weeks. As chairman of the committee, I am very happy to see that.

I say to the Senator from Florida and others that he is well aware that the veterans community faces many serious problems above and beyond what we have been hearing over the last few weeks with regard to the VA. We have 200,000 men and women who have come back from Iraq and Afghanistan either with PTSD or TBI. I would assume my friend from Florida agrees they need to get the quality care they deserve.

An hour or so ago I had the privilege of being honored by the Gold Star Wives. They are the widows of men who died in action. I brought legislation to the floor that would have made it possible for Gold Star Wives to be able to get a college education under the post-9/11 GI bill. That bill received 56 votes. One Senator was absent; otherwise, we would have had 57 votes. Only two Republicans supported that bill. I suspect that Senator RUBIO and many others support that. That is in the bill I brought to the floor.

Right now we have—as I am sure Senator RUBIO knows because the problem exists in Vermont, so it most likely exists in Florida as well—70-year-old women, in most cases, who are taking care of disabled vets, and they don't get the support they need. They are on duty 24/7, and they save the government money because those wounded veterans are staying at home. They need some help. I want to see them get help, and I hope Senator RUBIO will work with me to make sure they get that help.

Senator RUBIO is aware, as is the Presiding Officer, that there is great concern not only in the military—the VA and DOD—but in the civilian sector that there is too much use of opiates to treat problems. We have a very serious problem in that area. We have language in our overall provision that extends help to the VA to move forward to give our veterans alternative treatments other than opiates, and we think that is a very important piece of legislation.

We have legislation which has passed which provides 5 years of free health care in the VA for those who served in Iraq and Afghanistan. We think it is important to extend that to 10 years.

Many veterans out there do not have access to decent-quality dental care. It is a problem in Vermont, and I suspect it is a problem in Florida. We want veterans to get that care as well. There is bipartisan support for advanced appropriations for VA, and we have that in our legislation.

While the VA is making good progress in cutting back the backlog and moving from paper to a digital system, I want to see them do better. We have language in there that would push them to do better.

Just this morning, Senator BURR and I were at a hearing that dealt with the educational problems facing veterans who come back from the battlefield. There are problems when they go to college. Most of us think veterans should be able to take advantage of instate tuition in the State in which they are living.

Sexual assault has been a very serious problem in the military, and we want the VA to do better. Et cetera, et cetera.

I thank Senator HELLER and Senator MORAN for voting for this bill, along with every Democrat. I am very glad my Republican colleagues are now beginning to focus on veterans issues, and we need to step to the plate to help not only our veterans but their families, and that is the legislation I have offered.

I say to Senator RUBIO through the Chair that your legislation has many important provisions with which I happen to agree. There are some that I think need work, and we are going to hold a hearing on that legislation and other legislation in early June.

I respectfully object to that legislation right now, but I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to Calendar No. 297, S. 1950, with the Sanders amendment, which is at the desk and is the text of S. 1982, the Comprehensive Veterans Health and Benefits Military Retirement Pay Restoration Act. That is the comprehensive legislation supported by virtually every veterans organization in the country, millions of veterans, and the American people. It says ''thank you'' to the veterans who put their lives on the line to defend this country, and we are going to be there for you.

I ask unanimous consent that this legislation be passed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard to the request from the Senator from Florida.

Is there objection?

The Senator from Florida.

Mr. RUBIO. Reserving the right to object, I wish to address a couple of points. The first is on the issue of politicizing this. I agree. In fact, that is why I have not come forward and said that the Secretary should resign. There are times in this process when that is important. There are people who were appointed by the President who are clearly not doing their jobs, and it is our job as overseers of the executive branch of the government to step forward and say that.

I have said let's give the Secretary a chance to see what happens here. I may end up asking for his resignation at some point as more information comes out, but at a minimum I think he deserves an opportunity—and his successors, whoever they may be—to hold the

people underneath him accountable. They don't have the power to do that now.

Also notice when I came to the floor today, I have said absolutely nothing of a partisan nature. I am not claiming this is a crisis created by Democrats or by another party. On the contrary, I said this is a solution that has had strong bipartisan support in the House and strong bipartisan support in the committee today. This issue may become politicized in the sense that it seems all of the reluctance to move forward is coming from one side of the equation, but that does not necessarily have to be. In fact, I will tell my colleagues right now that I believe if this came to a vote, the overwhelming majority of the Members of the majority would support this legislation I have put forward today.

Two other points that were raised, one being that there have been no hearings. I would respectfully disagree. There was a hearing on it today. This was offered. This specific language was offered in the committee, and with little debate and no dissent, it passed by voice vote. For those watching at home, here is what voice vote means: They don't even call the roll. They basically ask Members: Is anyone against this? No one said they were. This language was adopted today in a committee.

Here is my second problem. I am glad to hear there are going to be hearings with regard to this issue, and I think that is important because I am not claiming the bill I am asking us to take up today and pass would solve all of the problems. There are still serious systemic problems within that agency, and a hearing needs to address this and find responsible solutions to those problems. So a hearing is called for.

What I am asking for is very simple: Give the Secretary, appointed by a President of a party different than my own, the power to fire employees underneath him who are not doing their jobs, so they know they are being held accountable. That is all I am asking. That is all this bill does. It is that straightforward. I don't think any of us want to go home for the Memorial Day recess and when we are asked: What are you doing on this issue, our answer is: Well, in about 15 days we are going to have a hearing on this crisis.

Meanwhile, the list goes on and on of the outrages that are coming out of this agency. Every single day more cases are coming out about veterans who are not being treated fairly and appropriately, and in some cases, in my opinion, criminally, by this incompetence we see out of some in the Veterans' Administration. This is a matter of urgency, because while we are gone on our recess, the President next week is going to get a preliminary report on what is going on. It may very well be that he wants to see some people fired, and it may very well be the Secretary will want to fire some people in senior executive positions and he will not be able to do that. All I am asking for is not to give us the power to fire them but to give the administration the power to fire them and hold them accountable.

Regarding the bill the chairman has offered on the floor, this bill has already been debated, and there are problems with this bill, which is an extensive piece of legislation with many good elements in it, but it also has a cost issue at a time when our Nation owes close to $18 trillion. That was the reason so many on my side of the aisle objected to it, and that is why I object to the motion made today by the Senator from Vermont.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, let me reiterate. When I quoted the Washington Post and when I talked about politicalization, I wasn't suggesting the Senator from Florida was being political on the floor today. What I was suggesting about politicizing the VA is if we have a situation, for example, where a new Secretary comes in or a new administration comes in and can fire wholesale hospital administrators, without the ability to defend themselves, I think that is not the kind of system the Senator from Florida would want or certainly I would want.

So how we address this issue is important. I would suspect that while this issue may have been taken up in committee today, I doubt very much there were any witnesses who testified about this bill.

Second of all, I found it interesting that the Senator from Florida said—and he is right that other Republicans have raised this point. The legislation I introduced, which again has the support of the American Legion, DAV, Vietnam Vets, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Iraq-Afghanistan Veterans of America, Paralyzed Veterans of America—he is right—it costs money. He is right. This country has a deficit. He would be right if he said that going to war in Iraq and Afghanistan has cost us trillions of dollars, which is one of the reasons we have the deficit we have. But I believe from the bottom of my heart that if we go to war, if we spend trillions of dollars on that war, that when our men and women come home from war, some wounded in body, some wounded in spirit—I don't want to hear people telling me it is too expensive to take care of those wounded veterans. I don't accept that. If we think it is too expensive to take care of veterans, don't send them to war.

So let me reiterate my view, as the Senator from Florida has raised an important issue. We are going to address it as quickly as we can, and we are going to address other issues facing our veterans who on this Memorial Day need to know we are there for them and their families.

Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, how much time remains?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time until 1:40 is reserved for the Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. RUBIO. Not seeing the Senator from Kentucky, I ask for 1 minute of that time to make the following point——

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, who has control of the time right now? Do I have the time?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time of the Senate is controlled by the Senator from Kentucky or his designee.

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, let me suggest to the Senator from Florida that we divide the remaining time, if he wishes to take a minute or two and I will take a minute or two; how is that?

Mr. RUBIO. That is fine with me.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, a bunch of issues were raised about the cost of the war in Iraq, how much money we spent, and how good we are at spending that money for the veterans. I think that is a valid debate and it is a debate we should have and should continue to have in this country. If we need to spend more money on these agencies, there are plenty of other places in the budget to find it, and we should work to make sure cost is not an issue.

But right now the central debate on the issue of what is happening in the VA has not centered around the fact that there are costs getting in the way. The central debate—and my colleagues know the President yesterday, in his press conference he held, said the central focus is on the management, the operations of this agency. Critical to the effectiveness of any agency is accountability; the ability to hold people accountable, including by taking away their jobs.

Think about this for a moment. The argument that has been made today about a new director can come in and fire the people who work underneath him or her, that argument could be made about virtually any organization on the planet. One could make that argument for staffers in the Senate, that we want to protect them, so if a new Senator is elected from a State, they can't hire their own staff.

The point I am trying to make—this is very simple. I get there are a lot of other issues we can talk about. There is one issue I want us to focus on, and that is this: We have a chance today, before we leave for the Memorial Day recess, to pass a bill that gives the Secretary that President Obama appointed the power to fire executives underneath him if they haven't done their job—a power he doesn't have right now. We have the chance to pass it on the floor. All we have to do is agree to it and it goes to the President to sign. We can then go home and say we have taken an important step in instituting accountability on this important issue, which the whole country is talking about, and we are walking away from that opportunity.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. We are not going to walk away from anything, but we are going to do it right. Again, the argument that when you run a health care system which has 151 medical centers, has some 900 community-based outreach clinics, has 300,000 employees that a new President can start wiping out, without necessarily giving people the right to defend themselves, does not make any sense to me.

So we are going to look at the positive provisions in Senator RUBIO's bill, and I think there are some. I would say to the Senator from Florida, I think we are going to reach an agreement. I think the Senator from Florida is going to be happy. I think it will be a good bill and we will reach consensus around it and I think we have to do that.

On the other hand, I wish to reiterate the point I made about money. Senator RUBIO is right, that one of the reasons we only had two Republican votes for a comprehensive piece of legislation that addresses the issues that the veterans communities brought to us—it is not a Bernie Sanders bill, it is a bill that listened to the needs of veterans and we said we hear you.

Once again, I would just say to the Senator from Florida, I don't think—I was just literally an hour ago at a function of the Gold Star Wives organization. These are women who have lost their husbands in battle. I think that under the post-9/11 GI bill, a very good and important piece of legislation, wives should have the right to use that legislation to go to college, get an education, so they can get better jobs. If I brought that bill to the floor today, I suspect I would have unanimous support, and I think that out of our committee the bill I brought forth, many provisions had unanimous support and many provisions were Republican provisions—good provisions, bipartisan provisions.

So what I say to my friend from Florida is thank you. The Senator's bill is an important bill and it is going to be dealt with and it will be dealt with in the very near future.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Madam President, I support the nomination of David Barron to serve on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit.

There is no question that David Barron has the background and qualifications for this position.

Consider his credentials: over a decade as a Harvard law professor; 3 years at the Office of Legal Counsel, OLC, in the Clinton administration, and another 2 years at OLC under President Obama as the Acting Assistant Attorney General in charge of that office—during which time he was awarded the Office of the Secretary of Defense Medal for Exceptional Public Service and the National Intelligence Exceptional Achievement Medal from the Office of the Director of National Intelligence; he clerked for Justice John Paul Stevens and Ninth Circuit Judge Stephen Reinhardt; he earned his bachelor's and law degrees from Harvard; and a substantial majority of the ABA Committee found him to be ''well qualified,'' their highest rating.

In sum, David Barron's record shows that he will be a jurist of the highest caliber.

He also has a strong record of standing up for what is right on many issues, whether it is campaign finance or gay rights.

Many distinguished individuals in both parties have written to the Judiciary Committee to support Professor Barron. Among them are: Jack Goldsmith, a Harvard Law professor and former head of OLC under President George W. Bush, Michael McConnell, conservative law professor and former Tenth Circuit judge, who described Barron as ''one of President Obama's two or three best nominations to the appellate courts;'' Charles Fried, law professor and former Solicitor General under President Reagan; 15 former career attorneys at OLC who served in administrations of both parties; and Ron George, former chief justice of California and someone I deeply respect.

Chief Justice George wrote:

> As a person who served for 38 years in a state court system, the last 14 years as chief justice of California, I have been particularly impressed by Mr. Barron's understanding and respect for the critical role played by the states and their courts in our federal system.

I respected the strong desire of some of my colleagues to have access to the two OLC memos related to the targeted killing of an American named Anwar al-Awlaki. Those memos were authored while Barron was Acting Assistant Attorney General at OLC.

However, I regret that even though the administration made those two opinions available to all Senators and even though the administration has recently decided to make the OLC analysis public, some still insist on delaying a vote on Professor Barron's nomination.

Let's contrast David Barron's nomination with that of another former head of the Office of Legal Counsel, Jay Bybee, who led the office from 2001 to 2003.

He was in charge of OLC when it produced an opinion saying waterboarding and nine other so-called enhanced interrogation techniques were not torture. On August 1, 2002, Mr. Bybee signed an opinion that set an unconscionably high bar for torture by saying that ''physical pain amounting to torture must be equivalent in intensity to the pain accompanying serious physical injury, such as organ failure, impairment of bodily function, or even death.'' That opinion was withdrawn during the Bush administration by Bybee's successor, Harvard Law Professor Jack Goldsmith.

Under Bybee, OLC also produced opinions about President Bush's Terrorist Surveillance Program that contain very troubling legal analysis. Because those opinions remain classified, I will not describe them here other than to note that they authorized a secret surveillance program that involved the collection of the content of communications without a court order and was in clear violation of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. Those OLC opinions also were withdrawn by Bybee's successor, Professor Goldsmith.

Despite the fact that those opinions were produced when he was head of OLC, Jay Bybee was nominated by the Bush administration to a Nevada seat on the Ninth Circuit. He was confirmed 74 to 19 in March 2003. I was one of 19 voting no.

Why would we confirm the man who approved the so-called ''torture memos'' and led OLC when it approved President Bush's surveillance program but delay David Barron, who produced superior legal work as head of OLC? The only reason I have heard is that Senators may believe that the two OLC opinions on Anwar al-Awlaki should be made public. Let me address that.

First, this week the Department of Justice took steps to ensure that the OLC analysis will be made public. The Justice Department has decided not to appeal a court order from the Second Circuit Court of Appeals requiring the OLC analysis to be made public. So this will happen in the near future.

Second, Professor Barron left OLC in 2010—well before the strike killed Awlaki in Yemen in September 2011. Since 2010, Professor Barron has been in academia.

It wasn't Barron's decision to withhold the OLC memos from Congress or from the public.

Let me quote from Professors Laurence Tribe and Charles Fried, both legal experts often on opposite sides of issues. They wrote an op-ed together about Barron in the Boston Globe. It reads, in part:

> [Barron] has not advocated, much less ordered, the withholding of any documents. His job as acting head of the Office of Legal Counsel was to provide thorough, accurate, and unvarnished legal opinions to the president and other executive officials, based on the traditional legal authorities of text, history, and precedent. We have every reason to believe that is precisely what he did, and there is absolutely no evidence to the contrary.

In fact, Professor Barron implemented policies that have made OLC more rigorous, professional, and transparent.

First, when he was acting head of OLC, Barron ordered the withdrawal of several opinions related to coercive interrogation that had been issued during the Bush administration.

Second, on July 16, 2010, Professor Barron wrote a memo entitled ''Re: Best Practices for OLC Legal Advice and Written Opinions'' that updated previous OLC guidance. It said that OLC ''operates from the presumption that it should make its significant

opinions fully and promptly available to the public. This presumption furthers the interests of Executive Branch transparency, thereby contributing to accountability and effective government, and promoting public confidence in the legality of government action.'' This presumption did not exist in the Bush administration; David Barron was responsible for establishing it as OLC policy. Given Barron's impressive record and his shift of OLC toward more transparency, it simply is wrong to oppose his nomination because a classified OLC opinion on drone strikes has not been made public yet, a decision that was not even his to make.

Since the OLC opinions on Anwar al-Awlaki that Professor Barron wrote seem to have become the issue holding up this nomination, let me close with a reminder of the specific plotting Awlaki was involved in before he was killed in 2011.

True, Awlaki was a dual U.S.-Yemeni citizen, but he served as chief of external operations for Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, AQAP. In that position, he planned and directed attacks against the United States, making him an imminent and continuing threat.

Awlaki played a significant operational role in AQAP. In 2010, the United States designated Awlaki a ''Specially Designated Global Terrorist'' for ''supporting acts of terrorism and for acting for or on behalf of AQAP.''

Awlaki publicly urged attacks against U.S. persons and interests worldwide. He worked with another American named Samir Khan to publish AQAP's Inspire Magazine to encourage terrorist attacks against innocent men, women, and children in the United States and elsewhere. As a reminder, Inspire Magazine provided the Tsarnaev brothers in Boston with the instructions for making the bomb they used at the Boston Marathon last year.

Let me offer just a few examples of Awlaki's direct involvement in terrorist operations:

Christmas Day Attack—In December 2009, Awlaki directed operative Umar Faruk Abdulmutallab, who attempted to detonate an explosive device aboard a Northwest Airlines flight to Detroit on Christmas Day. Awlaki instructed Abdulmutallab to detonate the device while over U.S. airspace to maximize casualties.

Fort Hood Attack—Fort Hood shooter Nidal Hasan attended al-Awlaki's sermons in Virginia and corresponded at least 18 times with him through email. After the attack, Awlaki posted on his blog praising Hasan's actions and calling him his ''student and brother.''

Times Square Bombing Attempt—Faisal Shahzad, who pleaded guilty to the 2010 Times Square car bombing attempt, told interrogators in early 2010 that he was ''inspired by'' Awlaki and communicated with him.

Package Bomb Plot—in October 2010, Awlaki had a direct role in supervising and directing AQAP's failed attempt to bring down two U.S. cargo aircraft by detonating explosives concealed inside two packages mailed to Chicago-area synagogues.

In sum, there is no doubt that Awlaki was chief of external operations for Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, AQAP, and a continuing and imminent threat to the United States.

David Barron's legal analysis of whether the United States can target Awlaki is cogent, careful legal analysis and reflects the kind of consideration of due process that we should applaud, not punish.

Barron certainly should not be disqualified because he was the head of OLC when that targeting decision—a targeting decision Barron did not advocate for—was being contemplated and analyzed by the Obama administration.

Let me conclude by saying this: David Barron is an impressive lawyer and scholar with a strong record. Nobody doubts that. Distinguished lawyers on both sides of the aisle have endorsed him wholeheartedly.

The reason for this is simple: His qualifications are first rate, and he has under his belt many years of commendable scholarship and service to this nation.

Simply put, he will be an outstanding jurist for the people of the First Circuit, and I very much hope my colleagues will support him.

WRRDA CONFERENCE REPORT

ECOSYSTEM RESILIENCY

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I am joined by the chair and ranking member of the Environment and Public Works Committee to discuss a provision of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act conference report, which we will vote on shortly in the Senate. I thank them for their leadership on this important legislation, and rise with them today to discuss one of its provisions.

Section 4014 of the conference report, Ocean and Coastal Resiliency, creates a new Army Corps authority to address ocean and coastal ecosystem resiliency.

Subject to appropriations, this authority requires the Army Corps of Engineers to work with the heads of other Federal agencies, like the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Fish and Wildlife Service, State governors and other State officials, and nonprofit organizations, to conduct a study identifying projects in coastal zones to enhance ocean and coastal ecosystem resiliency. State and local leaders often have the best information about the changing conditions of their oceans and coastal zones, and participation by them in the Army Corps' study process is intended to ensure the most effective resiliency projects are identified in the study.

In Rhode Island there are numerous entities, from our Coastal Zone Management Agency to our National Estuary Program, the University of Rhode Island, and Save the Bay that would bring important information and expertise to the process for identifying coastal resiliency projects in Rhode Island. In other States I know there will be similar interest.

Subject to appropriations, the study and project list will be updated every 5 years, to ensure that best available science and policies are informing project identification and selection.

When funding is provided for this program through the appropriations process, the Army Corps may carry out identified projects in accordance with the criteria for existing Corps Continuing Authority Program authorities.

Mrs. BOXER. I thank Senator WHITEHOUSE. As chair of the conference committee for WRRDA, a committee on which the Senator from Rhode Island and Senator VITTER also served, I agree with the Senator's understanding of section 4014. Like Rhode Island, California also has strong leadership on coastal and oceans issues and will benefit from increased collaboration with the Corps of Engineers on coastal and ocean resiliency issues.

Mr. VITTER. I share Chairman BOXER's and Senator WHITEHOUSE's understanding of section 4014, and will address subsection (d) of that provision, ''Request for Projects.'' Subsection (d) is an important provision because it requires approval by the governor or chief executive officer of a State before the Corps can carry out any project identified under this section.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. The conference committee's deliberations were informed by a legal analysis prepared by the Corps of Engineers Counsel regarding the interpretation of Section 4014.

I ask unanimous consent that the legal analysis prepared by Scott Murphy, Senior Counsel for Project Agreements and Reports in the Office of the Chief Counsel of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Headquarters, which describes how the Corps would implement this provision, be printed in the RECORD at the end of this colloquy.

The legal analysis, dated May 8, 2014, states that Section 4014 authorizes ''an independent coastal zone resiliency study and follow-on construction authority for projects to the extent they satisfy criteria for projects carried out under four named CAP authorities.'' In other words, Section 4014 relies on the terms and conditions of four preexisting authorities but it is not limited by the authorized levels in those authorities.

Mrs. BOXER. The Army Corps was clear that when a project is identified in the study associated with Section 4014, it may be carried out in accordance with the criteria for one of the four existing CAPs referenced in the section, but it will be not funded through or authorized by those CAP authorities. Section 4014 provides its

own funding authorization, and accordingly any project authorized by Section 4014 would be funded by appropriations for that authority.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I thank the chairman. I look forward to supporting this program in the future and during the appropriations process.

Resiliency is important in our estuaries, bays, and barrier islands, because we cannot just restore things the way they were and expect to reap the benefits. These systems are changing too much. Resiliency requires planning for future threats from extreme weather, from rising sea levels and warming temperatures, from development pressure, and from pollution. Coastal ecosystems act as filters, improving water quality so we can swim and fish off our docks; they act as barriers protecting property and lives from storms and storm surges; and they provide habitat for commercially valuable fish, shellfish, and other wildlife.

Coastal ecosystems support coastal economies, and I will continue looking for avenues to support restoration and research in this area.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

LEGAL ANALYSIS—MAY 8, 2014

I've looked at the language and agree that it authorizes an independent coastal zone resiliency study and follow-on construction authority for projects to the extent they satisfy criteria for projects carried out under four named CAP authorities. Like other free standing study and construction authorities, I'd expect us to carry projects following the study to the extent they were separately funded. In other words, to the extent the language cites to CAP authorities, I would read that language as requiring merely that we apply the same rules for those projects for purposes of implementing projects (requiring agreement, cost sharing, etc.) following this study, but not as an actual direct expansion of those particular CAP program authorities themselves that might thereby subject our implementation of coastal zone resiliency projects after the study somehow subject to the Corps discretionary use of its overall CAP funding.

N. SCOTT MURPHY,
Senior Counsel for Project Agreements and Reports Office of the Chief Counsel Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

PORT AND HARBOR MAINTENANCE

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I am joined by the ranking member of the Environment and Public Works Committee to discuss a provision of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act conference report, which we will vote on shortly in the Senate.

Title II, subtitle B includes a number of important provisions related to port and harbor maintenance. In addition to setting annual spending goals for funds from the harbor maintenance trust fund, HMTF, and providing a set-aside for spending on emerging ports, the section now authorizes new expanded uses of the HMTF. The expanded use authority, which includes dredging of berths and disposal of contaminated dredge material, is limited to those ports that collect more HMTF taxes than they receive in HMTF spending.

I also want to note that these new uses are prioritized for the ports that collect much larger amounts of the HMTF fees than they receive in return because the many industries that pay these fees to access American ports deserve to have some of those funds used to improve the facilities they depend on for movement of goods.

These ports have unmet needs that shippers into these ports expect to be addressed. In my home State, we have two large ports—Los Angeles and Long Beach. These two ports collect over a quarter of all revenue for the HMTF, but because of the natural conditions at these ports, they require little to almost no traditional dredging to maintain the federally authorized channels. They do have needs related to berth dredging and disposal of some contaminated sediments.

These expanded use authorities are new and separate from the traditional uses of the HMTF. These new, expanded uses are not limited to the traditional HMTF focus—dredging of the Federal navigation channel. Instead, these are designed to meet additional maintenance needs beyond traditional cost-shared dredging projects.

Specifically, the conference agreement authorizes dredging of berths that are accessible to a Federal navigation channel and that benefit commercial navigation at the harbor. This permits expenditure of HMTF revenues for maintenance of non-Federal berthing areas to a depth required to access the federally authorized channel. The conference agreement does not place any other restriction on the use of these funds; therefore, these funds are eligible for maintenance dredging of berths to any depths necessary to access the federally authorized navigation channel as long as the berth is in a harbor that is accessible to a Federal navigation channel and the dredging benefits commercial navigation.

The conference report also authorizes dredging and disposal of contaminated sediments if such activities provide a benefit to commercial navigation and affect navigation of a Federal navigation project or are located in a berth that is accessible to a Federal navigation project. This provision will enable the HMTF to fund the disposal of legacy-contaminated sediment and sediment unsuitable for open water disposal that affect navigation at a Federal navigation project. This could include a range of cost-effective contaminated sediment removal and disposal activities as long as they provide a benefit to commercial navigation. No limitation beyond the benefit to commercial navigation and the linkage to a Federal navigation project is included.

Mr. VITTER. I thank Senator BOXER for the discussion of expanded uses of the HMTF. I agree with her understanding of the berth dredging and contaminated sediment disposal eligibilities, which are important to many of our Nation's major commercial ports. Expanding the uses of the HMTF is critical to those ports that are major contributors to the HMTF, yet receive minimal expenditures; therefore, the conference agreement establishes specific criteria for use of this authority. I look forward to working with the Senator more in the future on the implementation of the HMTF provisions in this conference report, including the expanded use provision we are discussing as well as increased expenditures of harbor maintenance trust fund revenues and prioritization of dredging at other key ports, such as the Port of New Orleans.

Mrs. BOXER. I thank Senator VITTER for that response. It is important that we are clear on how these new authorities should be implemented.

I also want to highlight how these authorities will benefit my home State of California. In the case of the Port of Los Angeles, the main channels and turning basins are authorized to at least 53-foot depth and have been recently dredged to such depths. Most adjacent container berths were also federally authorized at 53 feet and have been dredged to that depth. As shoaling/siltation occurs, maintenance dredging must be performed in order to keep adequate depth for the large container ships. The new expanded use for berth dredging will permit the maintenance dredging of these berth areas, down to the federally authorized depth.

This new use for disposal of contaminated sediment is also important for the Port of Los Angeles because legacy sediment contamination from the Consolidated Slip at the port will migrate during storm events down the Dominguez Channel and into the newly deepened Federal turning basin and main channel. This new expanded use will now allow the HMTF to fund the removal of this sediment.

I am glad that the conference agreement could address this important need for California ports as well as many other ports around the country. I am also very pleased with all of the other important reforms to the harbor maintenance trust fund included in the conference report. The proper and full maintenance of our nation's ports is of vital importance as we seek to compete in the global economy. The HMTF provisions and other important elements in the WRRDA 2014 help support American jobs, while maintaining America's ability to compete in the global economy.

DAM OPTIMIZATION

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I am joined by the chair and ranking member of the Environment and Public Works Committee to discuss section 1046 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act conference report, which we will vote on shortly in the Senate. I would like to thank the chair and ranking member for their

leadership on this important legislation and rise with them today to discuss the provision and address my concerns about the effects on Army Corps of Engineers' reservoirs in Texas.

It is important to remember that the long-term reliability of the Corps' multipurpose reservoirs remains a critical economic issue for many regions of our country. Cities, water districts, businesses, and other users depend on these reservoirs both for hydropower generation and to meet their larger water supply needs. That is especially true in arid States such as Texas.

Indeed, the reservoirs have helped our States—and many others—to mitigate the effects of serious droughts. For that matter, Texas suffered the most intense drought in recorded State history just a few years ago, and water levels at a number of reservoirs remain dangerously low. Statewide, reservoirs are only at 64 percent of their capacity, according to the Texas Water Development Board.

As one of America's fastest growing States, water supply management is becoming more and more important to individual Texans and their communities. Thankfully, local and State leaders have worked hard to devise effective strategies.

Similar to other States, Texas has very specific laws on water rights and environmental flows. Since 2007, we have had a legal process that provides for a basin-specific scientific assessment, a formal review, and then recommendations by interested stakeholders. The State government oversees this process by working with stakeholders to balance environmental flow needs with other public interests, such as water needs.

It is crucial to understand that the water stored in these reservoirs belongs to Texas and has been allocated to users in accordance with Federal and State law. It is also crucial to understand that the non-Federal sponsors of the reservoirs pay for storage, operations, and maintenance. Any changes to the operations that affect the authorized purposes of the reservoirs should never be made without their involvement.

Section 1046(a) in the conference report requires the Corps to update its operations of reservoirs report, and to include a plan for reviewing the operations of individual projects, including a detailed schedule for future reviews of project operations. In carrying out these reviews, the Corps must coordinate with the appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies, along with any public and private entities that could be affected.

Going forward, during the deliberations over a project-specific review, the Secretary must carefully weigh the use of limited Federal operations and maintenance funding and may accept funds from other agencies or non-Federal entities if necessary.

Furthermore, the Secretary must ensure that all recommendations offered at the conclusion of the review, one, do not impinge on State water rights; two, are consistent with State water plans, and, three, do not affect any authority of a State to manage water resources within that State.

The language is explicit: It does not change the authorized purpose of any Corps dam or reservoir, and the Secretary may only carry out recommendations and activities pursuant to existing law. Let me repeat: There is no new authority to modify reservoir operations granted to the Corps of Engineers.

Of course, the Secretary has always had the authority to review the operations of these reservoirs and to improve their efficiency. As they undertake these reviews and carry out activities, this conference report language is clear that all authorized project purposes are maintained.

Mr. VITTER. Madam President, I would like to thank my friend from Texas, Senator CORNYN. As the top Senate Republican member of the conference committee for WRRDA, I agree with his understanding and interpretation of the language in section 1046(a) of the WRRDA conference report. Multipurpose dams and reservoirs in Texas are crucial to the well-being and economic viability of Texas, particularly in areas that have experienced severe droughts over the past several years. This provision is explicit in that the Secretary shall coordinate with appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies, as well as public and private entities that may be affected by those reviews and activities. This provision also prohibits any changes to the authorized purposes of any Corps dam or reservoir and only allows the Secretary to carry out recommendations or activities pursuant to existing law. As the Corps implements this provision, I will work with my colleague from Texas to monitor the Corps' activities and ensure there are no adverse effects to dams and reservoirs in his State.

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I thank Ranking Member VITTER and Senator CORNYN for the discussion of section 1046(a) in the WRRDA conference report. I agree with their understanding and interpretation of this section and wish to address the importance of this provision. In my home State, which is currently facing a historic drought, it is critical that the Corps examine its reservoir operations to increase flexibility so that it can better meet all of the State's water needs, including agriculture, municipal uses, and the environment. Unfortunately, in California, the Corps does not look often enough at how it can better operate its reservoirs to meet multiple needs. This provision does not change the authorized purpose of any reservoir and paragraph (6), ''Effects of subsection,'' makes this clear. The provision simply creates a more transparent process under existing law so that Congress and local communities can work with the Corps to improve management of Federal reservoirs that provide important benefits to local communities.

ACF AND ACT RIVER SYSTEMS

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam President, I am joined by the chair and ranking member of the Environment and Public Works Committee to discuss section 1051 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act—WRRDA—conference report, which we will vote on shortly in the Senate. I thank the chair and ranking member for their leadership on this bipartisan and important legislation. I rise today to discuss a provision within the legislation pertaining to a long-running regional dispute in the Southeastern United States over the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' operations within the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint, ACF and Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa, ACT, river systems. At the heart of the conflict are concerns from downstream stakeholders about the amount of water withdrawals—and the legal authority for those withdrawals—from Lake Allatoona and Lake Lanier.

A similar provision was included in the Senate-passed version of this bill, S. 601, which was reported favorably out of the Environment and Public Works Committee after careful consideration. Part of that consideration was a July 22, 2013, hearing focused on this dispute among the Army Corps and other stakeholders in the region. That hearing examined issues related to the withdrawal of water from Lake Allatoona and Lake Lanier; the authorized purposes of those two reservoirs; the Corps' actions in light of the 1958 Water Supply Act; the legislative history of the reservoirs; and the Corps' management of water storage contracts in the river systems.

While it highlighted a number of concerns related to Army Corps of Engineers authority under the Water Supply Act, the hearing brought to light a point of agreement that all stakeholders share. The best way to resolve the conflict is through a negotiated interstate water compact.

Section 1051 highlights Congress's concerns with the Corps' actions under the Water Supply Act related to the allocation of storage at Corps projects to local water supply without congressional approval. While it notes these concerns, it urges the agreed-upon best resolution to the conflict: an interstate water compact negotiated by the Governors of Georgia, Alabama, and Florida. The provision adds that the committees of jurisdiction should consider further legislation on the issue absent such an agreement.

Mr. VITTER. I thank my friend from Alabama, Senator SESSIONS, for his work on the WRRDA conference report and on this long-running dispute in the Southeastern United States. As the top Republican on the Committee on Environment and Public Works and the lead Republican Senate conferee on the conference committee for WRRDA, I agree with his understanding and interpretation of the language in section 1051 of

the WRRDA conference report. Senator SESSIONS' work through the development of the Senate version of this bill to investigate and document this conflict provided useful clarity throughout the conference committee's deliberations. As we await the development of a water compact that is satisfactory to Georgia, Alabama, and Florida, I will work with my friend from Alabama to continue oversight of the Corps' implementation of the Water Supply Act.

Mr. MCCAIN. Madam President, today the Senate is considering the conference agreement for the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014, WRRDA. This bill contains roughly $12.3 billion in additional authorized spending for a variety of water projects that fall under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers civil works division. This bill supports the construction and maintenance of many of our Nation's dams, levees, harbors, ports, and river ways to name a few.

For being such an important bill, the American people may wonder why the last time Congress passed a WRDA law was 7 years ago in 2007.

The reason is that it took Congress 7 straight years to finally respond to public pressure demanding Army Corps reform. As my colleagues know, the Corps has long been criticized by government auditors, taxpayer watchdogs and environmental groups for employing highly questionable economic models and environmental studies to justify its construction projects. A large number of Army Corps projects have been pegged as government boondoggles flush with waste, fraud, and abuse due to cost-overruns and cut-corner construction. Perhaps the best known example is the flooding of New Orleans during the Hurricane Katrina disaster that was traced back to substandard Corps levees, poor planning, and gutted coastal wetlands. Years later an independent study by the American Society of Engineers commissioned by the Corps concluded that, ''a large portion of the destruction from Hurricane Katrina was caused by . . . engineering and engineering-policy failures made over many years at almost all levels of responsibility.''

But as much as the Corps' bad management practices are to blame, the truth is that we in Congress are not without fault. For decades, Congress has used each WRDA bill to pile on construction project on top of construction project as a way for members to ''bring home the bacon'' in their States. Layers of these pork projects have created a $60 billion construction backlog, and the Army Corps simply can not complete them all with their $2 billion annual construction appropriation. Cutting corners and cooking their books is simply one way they bend to political priorities set by Congress.

I appreciate that the conference agreement implements some modest Corps reforms, particularly addressing the agency's $60 billion construction backlog. This bill requires the the Army Corps to ''de-authorize'' up to $18 billion in Corps projects, most of which have never received construction funding to begin with. This is a step in the right direction, but unfortunately this bill's ''savings'' are washed away by the $12 billion in new authorized spending included in this bill. Additionally, the conference agreement makes it impossible to de-authorize $28 billion in projects that were authorized in the 2007 WRDA law—a bill that was vetoed by President Bush for containing too much government waste but was subsequently overridden by Congress.

This bill also falls short by not giving the Army Corps clear parameters on what projects should be treated as national priorities. The conferees even eliminated a law that requires the Corps to send their most costly and controversial projects to undergo an ''Independent Peer Review'' process. All of this means there will be less transparency and oversight into the Corps decision making process. So I am sorry to say I must question the veracity of ''reform'' in this conference agreement.

I worry that ultimately this WRRDA conference agreement means that Army Corps projects of lower-priority will continue to supersede projects that address serious, life-threatening issues across the Nation and in my home State of Arizona. This lack of prioritization with Corps projects comes at a real cost to the American taxpayer. Take for example the Rio de Flag Flood Control Project in Flagstaff, AZ. The Army Corps knows that a single large flood event along the Rio de Flag River could easily wipe out the city's downtown area and Northern Arizona University, affecting half their population and causing $93 million in economic damage. After undergoing the appropriate feasibility studies, Congress authorized $24 million in 2000 to construct a 1.6-mile flood water channel and a detention basin to redirect the water away from the community. For 14 years, this project—again, just 1.6 miles—has languished partially because of the Corps' $60 billion construction backlog. The Corps spends less than $3 million a year on Rio de Flag while Congress plays favorites with other projects on their plate. This approach of funding Army Corps projects piecemeal over the years has inflated the total estimated cost of Rio de Flag from $24 million to $101.5 million.

Rio de Flag is a serious public safety project and yet it is behind schedule and way over budget. In fact, the only completed portion of the project is a 4,000-foot levee, which is cracked due to shoddy construction by an Army Corps contractor. I am told that the Army Corps recently ordered the contractor to repair the broken levee, of course at the added expense of the American taxpayer and the City of Flagstaff. Now the project faces more delays because the Army Corps has been slowly dragging out its ''updated economic analysis'' for Rio De Flag for the past 3 years, leaving the city unnecessarily vulnerable to disaster and causing the project's price tag to rise even higher.

I have a longstanding practice of abstaining from legislating projects to WRDA bills out of principle that each project should be prioritized based on national need, but it's hard to argue that Flagstaff isn't one of these national priorities, or that the current practice of piling on Army Corps projects isn't contributing to the mismanagement across the entire agency. Ultimately, this conference agreement does little to change the Corps' culture of bad decisions that affect Rio de Flag and similar projects. Congress will not be blameless if a flood event larger than what Flagstaff occasionally sees inundates the city, destroys property, or claims innocent lives.

I appreciate the need to pass a WRDA bill after 7 years, but I am concerned that this bill is just a new coat of paint on the same broken system. I urge my colleagues to oppose this conference agreement.

Mr. NELSON. Madam President, I am here to speak in support of the conference report for the Water Resources Reform and Development Act or WRRDA. I congratulate Senator BOXER and Senator VITTER for their combined leadership and their working together to send this bill to the President's desk. The last time Congress passed a WRDA bill was in 2007.

Gridlock and controversy over earmarks have delayed action on the WRRDA bill. This inaction puts our ports, beaches, and massive environmental restoration projects, like the Everglades, in jeopardy.

I support WRRDA because it moves forward with port construction, new flood protection, navigation, and environmental restoration projects, while instituting a number of reforms to the Army Corps of Engineers.

Our ports provide good jobs and are critical the economy, facilitating trade and commerce. These projects have been vetted, studied, and recommended by the Army Corps. Now, it is time for Congress to do its part and pass the WRRDA bill.

The WRRDA bill means good news for Florida's beaches, waterways, ports, and the Everglades. Not only does Florida have nine projects with a chief's report that are ready to go, but we also have several coastal communities anxiously waiting for the reauthorization of beach nourishment programs.

The WRRDA bill extends the authorization for beach renourishment projects so that the Corps can continue repairing and restoring Florida's coastlines. The WRRDA bill authorizes a 3-year extension of coastal storm damage projects which are scheduled to expire in the next 5 years. This means that the Treasure Island project in Pinellas County will now be authorized through 2022. In addition, it creates a

process by which projects can be extended by up to 15 years with the help of Federal funds. Strengthening the coastline by replenishing eroding sand will help defend against sea-level rise and storm surge.

Congress made a promise 14 years ago to restore the Everglades, and WRRDA puts us on the path to finally fulfill the promise of Everglades restoration. The Everglades are a national treasure, and together, Congress and President Harry Truman recognized it when they dedicated Everglades National Park back in 1947. But it took another major act of Congress to fund Everglades restoration to repair and restore the natural sheet flow of water into the park and into Florida Bay.

The original Everglades Restoration legislation, also known as the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, or CERP, was the result of years of work and study, was authorized in 2000 and was written with the intent of frequent WRDA bills.

However, only one WRDA bill has been enacted since—in 2007. The first era of Everglades restoration is underway. We have been able to fund construction and make significant progress on three major projects, build a bridge over the Tamiami Trail, create jobs, and provide fresh water for urban and agricultural water supply.

As we restore the Everglades, we create jobs and improve the water quality for a critical habitat. In fact, a Mather Economics study found that restoring the Everglades will result in the creation of over 440,000 jobs in sectors like real estate, tourism, fishing, and agriculture—many of those permanent jobs. This study also concluded that there is a $4 return on investment for every dollar spent restoring the Everglades.

This bill contains four new project authorizations that are part of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan. For example, the C–43 Reservoir near La Belle, FL, will help store water during the rainy season along the Caloosahatchee River and protect our coastal areas from too much freshwater, which can drastically disrupt the delicate salinity balance in the Caloosahatchee Estuary. In addition, the C–111 Spreader Canal will redirect water into Everglades National Park that will eventually make its way down to benefit Florida Bay.

The first era of Everglades restoration projects, including the Indian River Lagoon and the Picayune Strand, increase water quality and preserve the natural areas to reverse the draining and bulldozing that happened decades ago. This is one of the last areas of the State where the Florida panther has the land it needs to roam and hunt. In addition, Picayune Strand restores habitat and ecological connections that will directly affect the Florida Panthers National Wildlife Refuge, the Belle Meade State Conservation and Recreation Lands Project Area, and the Fakahatchee Strand State Preserve.

All of this works toward the goal of moving water through the historic River of Grass. But progress has been delayed because the second era of projects has been waiting for the WRDA bill for several years. I know Florida is not alone with this type of complaint. The lack of project authorizations has caused delays and significant cost overruns for too long. For this very reason, I have introduced a bill called the Everglades for the Next Generation Act. This legislation provides a programmatic authorization for 5 years for all projects associated with the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan. It authorizes projects that the Army Corps has completed the planning, engineering, and design work for and allows the Corps to expedite the process on other projects that would provide greater ecosystem or water supply benefits when done sooner.

The WRRDA bill updates our ports and makes them more economically competitive. WRRDA authorizes a number of projects for ports in Florida and other States. These authorizations are a crucial step forward for the improvements our ports need to attract more ships and cargo and take full advantage of the Panama Canal expansion. For example, WRRDA authorizes $600.9 million for a project to deepen Jacksonville Harbor. This will economically transform Jacksonville into a major port that can receive big ships from Asia through an expanded Panama Canal. Projects for Port Canaveral and the Port of Palm Beach that will create new jobs were also included in WRRDA. Overall, I am very pleased that the WRRDA bill accomplishes so much for ports in Florida. Improving and updating our ports will be an economic boon for the country that will create new jobs and opportunities for people across the country.

Mr. President, it is clear that without the WRRDA bill, Florida is in trouble. It is important not just to Florida but for this entire Nation. I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, I will support this legislation to strengthen our Nation's water infrastructure. For Michigan, the Water Resources Reform and Development Act, WRRDA, means that harbors, channels, breakwaters, and locks in the Great Lakes will be better maintained; Federal assistance for wastewater system upgrades will be more flexible and affordable; and the Great Lakes fishery will be better protected from destructive invasive species. Surrounded by water on all but one side, Michigan is a water state and our waters fuel our economy, create jobs, offer a vast array of recreational opportunities, and provide drinking water to millions. I am pleased this bill will help protect our waters and improve their navigability.

The report makes progress on increasing funding for harbor maintenance, with the goal of aligning revenues collected in the harbor maintenance trust fund with those expended for this purpose. Over 5 years have passed since I led a bipartisan and multiregional group of Senators to call to the attention of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee the imbalance in collections and spending for harbor maintenance. I am pleased the committee worked with us to reduce this disparity. This conference report aims to increase spending on harbor maintenance so that it is more in line with the fees collected for maintaining our Nation's navigation infrastructure. I am also pleased the Great Lakes navigation system is prioritized for the increased funds through a specific set-aside of 10 percent. Also, Great Lakes projects are eligible for other types of prioritized funds, which will position us to compete for this additional assistance.

The conference report authorizes the Great Lakes as a single navigational system, recognizing the interconnectedness of its 140 harbor projects. During Senate consideration of the water resources bill, I entered into a colloquy with Chairman BOXER to discuss the system's interdependence. I am pleased the conference committee included this Great Lakes authorization, as it should help allow all of our harbors—both large and small—to be recognized for Federal assistance.

While the harbor maintenance provisions in the report are good, we will still need to continue to fight for appropriations and ensure that budget requests reflect the true needs of the Great Lakes Navigation System. This vital transportation network carries about 130 million tons of critical commodities to supply raw materials to our manufacturing sector, power homes and businesses, build roads and bridges, and provide food for people around the world. Surely it should be maintained so that it can carry these critical commodities effectively and efficiently.

In addition to carrying millions of tons of goods, the Great Lakes also boast a $7 billion fishery. To protect this significant resource, destructive invasive species need to be kept out of the lakes. I am pleased the conferees retained an important provision I worked with my colleagues to include in the Senate bill, an authorization for the Corps of Engineers to implement emergency measures to prevent invasive species, including the destructive Asian carp, from dispersing into the Great Lakes. This authorization makes clear that such emergency authority can be implemented at any hydrologic connection between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River basins which will provide important flexibility to the Corps to respond to emergencies.

Our Nation's economy, health, and well-being depend on a strong water infrastructure. WRRDA makes progress in authorizing programs to strengthen our navigation systems, flood control, drinking water and wastewater systems, and natural resources. We now

need to make sure that appropriations are provided for these improvements to be made real.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, today the Senate will act to make major improvements to our water infrastructure for commercial and recreational navigation while protecting and maintaining many environmental treasures for future generations.

The Water Resources Reform and Development Act—which the House passed 412 to 4—is one of the few bipartisan accomplishments of this Congress. I wish there were more.

Nevertheless, I would like to thank Chairman BARBARA BOXER and Senator VITTER of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee and Chairman BILL SHUSTER and Congressman NICK RAHALL on the House side for their hard work in getting this bill to us today.

I would also like to thank my Illinois delegation colleagues on both sides of the Capitol and on both sides of the aisle for their assistance in advancing Illinois priorities in this bill.

I am pleased that in the final bill there are many provisions that will benefit our home State.

It was just a little over a year ago that we dealt with a major drought in the Midwest that caused record low water levels on the Mississippi River and threatened to disrupt the crucial transport of millions of dollars in goods and commodities on the river.

After the initial threat had passed, thanks to better-than-expected rainfall and quick action by the Army Corps of Engineers at the behest of Congress, Representative BILL ENYART and I introduced the Mississippi River Navigation Sustainment Act. The major provisions of this measure are included in the bill we will pass today.

These provisions will improve water level and river forecasting abilities along the Mississippi and give the Corps greater flexibility to respond to low water events that threaten navigation. The bill also authorizes the Corps to conduct, for the first time, a study of the entire Mississippi River Basin—which spans 40 percent of the continental United States—to determine how we can better manage the system during extreme weather. Finally, we create an environmental management program for the middle Mississippi—recognizing the importance of preserving and restoring fish and wildlife habitats while undertaking important navigation improvements.

River commerce in America's heartland depends on the system of locks and dams on the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers.

I was pleased to work with my colleagues in the 2007 reauthorization of the Water Resources Development Act to authorize modernization and expansion of the locks on these important Illinois waterways.

These improvements make commerce more efficient and guard against catastrophic failures of current locks and dams as most of them reach 80 or so years old. At the same time, with current project delivery schedules and the tight Federal budget, these improvements are not expected to be realized until 2090 by some estimates.

With that in mind, Senator MARK KIRK and I, along with our colleagues Representatives CHERI BUSTOS and RODNEY DAVIS in the House, introduced the Water Infrastructure Now Public Private Partnership Act or WIN–P3. A version of our proposal is included in the final conference report.

It includes a pilot program that would decentralize project planning, design, and construction from the Corps and provide an opportunity for private financing to come to the table. We are hopeful that it will speed project delivery of nationally significant water infrastructure projects like the locks and dams on the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers.

Along with the economic and recreational benefits of the Mississippi River comes the annual threat of devastating floods for many Illinois communities.

In Illinois' Metro East region the community has stepped up to improve flood protection after their levees were decertified. They have taxed themselves to help pay for this improved protection and have endured a long and often frustrating partnership with the Army Corps.

My hope is that the provisions we secured in this bill will go a long way to improving their situation.

The bill would combine several separately authorized levee projects into one. That means that the money Congress appropriates for these projects will be more flexible and can be used where it is most needed.

Additionally, the bill would allow the Metro East levee projects to qualify for work-in-kind credit with the Army Corps. This will help make the work the locals are doing go farther towards the completion of the final levels of protection.

The conference report will also allow much needed restoration of the Chicago shoreline along Lake Michigan to continue. The project was facing delay as it got closer to hitting its original authorization cap. This bill increased that authorization.

I would like to thank again all those who worked on this bill. I look forward to this bipartisan accomplishment being soon signed into law by President Obama.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF DAVID JEREMIAH BARRON TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE FIRST CIRCUIT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of David Jeremiah Barron, of Massachusetts, to be United States Circuit Judge for the First Circuit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of David Jeremiah Barron, of Massachusetts, to be United States Circuit Judge for the First Circuit?

Mr. ISAKSON. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) would have voted ''nay.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HIRONO). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 53, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 162 Ex.]

YEAS—53

Baldwin	Harkin	Pryor
Begich	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Heitkamp	Reid
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rockefeller
Booker	Johnson (SD)	Sanders
Boxer	Kaine	Schatz
Brown	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cardin	Leahy	Stabenow
Carper	Levin	Tester
Casey	Markey	Udall (CO)
Coons	McCaskill	Udall (NM)
Donnelly	Menendez	Walsh
Durbin	Merkley	Warner
Feinstein	Mikulski	Warren
Franken	Murphy	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murray	Wyden
Hagan	Nelson	

NAYS—45

Alexander	Cruz	Johnson (WI)
Ayotte	Enzi	Kirk
Barrasso	Fischer	Landrieu
Blunt	Flake	Lee
Burr	Graham	Manchin
Chambliss	Grassley	McCain
Coburn	Hatch	McConnell
Cochran	Heller	Moran
Collins	Hoeven	Murkowski
Corker	Inhofe	Paul
Cornyn	Isakson	Portman
Crapo	Johanns	Risch

Roberts	Sessions	Toomey
Rubio	Shelby	Vitter
Scott	Thune	Wicker

NOT VOTING—2

Boozman	Coats

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table. The President shall be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume legislative session.

WATER RESOURCES REFORM AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2014—CONFERENCE REPORT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Chair lays before the Senate the conference report to accompany H.R. 3080, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3080), to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes, having met, after full and free conference, have agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses as follows: That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate and agree to the same with an amendment and the Senate agree to the same, signed by a majority of the conferees on the part of both Houses.

(The conference report is printed in the House proceedings in the RECORD of May 15, 2014.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. Colleagues, I am going to take 25 seconds. This is a great day for the Senate, for every single Member in this body, and our States, for jobs, for business, for ecosystem restoration, for our oceans. It is a great bill. I hope we will have a great vote on this bill.

Senator VITTER and I agree. I will yield my remaining time to him.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. VITTER. Madam President, I urge a ''yes'' vote also. This is a strong bipartisan bill. There were only four ''no'' votes in the House and a strong positive editorial in the Wall Street Journal. Vote for infrastructure and jobs.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the question is on agreeing to the conference report to accompany H.R. 3080.

Mr. CORKER. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) would have voted ''yea.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. WARREN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 91, nays 7, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 163 Leg.]

YEAS—91

Alexander	Grassley	Nelson
Ayotte	Hagan	Paul
Baldwin	Harkin	Portman
Barrasso	Hatch	Pryor
Begich	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Heitkamp	Reid
Blumenthal	Heller	Risch
Blunt	Hirono	Rockefeller
Booker	Hoeven	Rubio
Boxer	Inhofe	Sanders
Brown	Isakson	Schatz
Cantwell	Johanns	Schumer
Cardin	Johnson (SD)	Scott
Carper	Kaine	Sessions
Casey	King	Shaheen
Chambliss	Kirk	Shelby
Cochran	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Collins	Landrieu	Tester
Coons	Leahy	Thune
Corker	Levin	Toomey
Cornyn	Manchin	Udall (CO)
Crapo	Markey	Udall (NM)
Cruz	McCaskill	Vitter
Donnelly	McConnell	Walsh
Durbin	Menendez	Warner
Enzi	Merkley	Warren
Feinstein	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Fischer	Moran	Wicker
Franken	Murkowski	Wyden
Gillibrand	Murphy	
Graham	Murray	

NAYS—7

Burr	Johnson (WI)	Roberts
Coburn	Lee	
Flake	McCain	

NOT VOTING—2

Boozman	Coats

The conference report was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF RICHARD G. FRANK TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Richard G. Frank, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 2 minutes of debate equally divided in the usual form.

The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. COONS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to yield back all remaining time on both sides.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Richard G. Frank, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services?

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table. The President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

TO PROTECT AND ENHANCE OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECREATIONAL HUNTING, FISHING, AND SHOOTING—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume legislative session.

The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I want to speak briefly on three topics this afternoon: human trafficking; the terrorist attack at Fort Hood, TX, in 2009; and finally, the way the Senate has become a killing ground for good ideas because of the practices of the majority leader.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Starting with human trafficking, we know that while slavery was formally abolished in the United States years ago, it continues today in the form of human trafficking. Tragically, too many children are victims of modern-day slavery—literally tens of thousands right here in America. That is why in recent years I have joined with colleagues on both sides of the aisle—obviously, this is not a political or partisan issue—to work together in a bipartisan way to introduce a series of bills aimed at accomplishing three things: No. 1, shedding light on this tragic reality. Most people in their communities around the country are not even aware of the scourge of human trafficking that is happening right under their nose. No. 2, we have tried to do everything we can to save children—minors—from the sex trade. And No. 3, we have tried hard to bring these traffickers to justice.

I was proud to be one of the cosponsors of the 2012 Child Protection Act, which gave law enforcement agencies better tools with which to protect children and apprehend criminals. More recently, I joined with the senior Senator from Oregon, Mr. WYDEN; the senior Senator from Minnesota, Ms. KLOBUCHAR; and the junior Senator from Illinois, Mr. KIRK, to introduce something we call the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act.

Our bill would establish a domestic trafficking victims fund that doesn't come from tax dollars but, rather, from fees and fines paid by people who commit law enforcement offenses. It would allocate tens of millions of dollars to both fight human trafficking and, just as importantly, to help victims get the sorts of services they need in order to heal and to become productive citizens once again. It would also give law enforcement officials more tools to crack

down on human trafficking and the broader criminal networks that support them.

The bill would streamline human trafficking task force investigations by giving investigators access to better technologies and enhance cooperation between Federal and State law enforcement partnerships. It would also allow law enforcement officials to prosecute each and every member of a human trafficking organization, as opposed to merely the on-the-ground managers, and it would increase the penalties for criminals who prey on children through sex slavery.

Finally, it would improve the availability of restitution and witness assistance for trafficking victims by allowing for a larger portion of forfeited Federal criminal assets to go directly to the victims.

To be clear, as I said a moment ago, this bill would be funded by the fines imposed on the people who commit the crimes of child pornography, child prostitution, sexual exploitation, human trafficking, and commercial human smuggling offenses at the Federal level, and it would not increase the Federal deficit.

Earlier this week, the House of Representatives acted by passing its own version of the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act, and I would urge the majority leader and the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee to bring the Senate version up for a vote in the committee and on the floor of the Senate as soon as possible. After all, during a time when politics seems to pervade everything here in Washington, DC, and we are approaching a midterm election where it seems so hard to do things that should be easy, this is one thing we ought to be able to do together.

FORT HOOD

I would also urge the majority leader to allow a vote on separate legislation that has already been approved by the House Armed Services Committee as an amendment to the national defense authorization bill, and is now being introduced as an amendment to the Senate bill by my colleague Senator CRUZ of Texas, who sits on the Armed Services Committee.

This legislation I am referring to I first introduced several years ago following the terrorist attack on American soil at Fort Hood, TX, when MAJ Nidal Hasan killed 13 people and injured dozens more. These individuals who lost their lives deserve the same sort of recognition on the field of battle as people who lost their lives in other parts of the world—perhaps overseas. The same benefits should be available to the families of those who survive terrorist attacks anywhere in the world.

There is no doubt about the fact that what happened at Fort Hood on November 5, 2009, was a terrorist attack. The shooter happened to be a lone-wolf terrorist, happened to be an American citizen, and happened to be a member of the U.S. Army, but he was also a radicalized Islamist who reportedly exchanged at least 20 emails with a senior Al-Qaeda member before committing this massacre. The Al-Qaeda leader with whom he corresponded is someone who has since become more notorious and even better known—a man named Anwar al-Awlaki. This person was also the one who maintained a relationship with a terrorist who tried to blow up Northwest Airlines flight 253 on Christmas day in 2009, less than 2 months after the Fort Hood attack.

We have just had a vote on one of the lawyers who wrote the memo by which President Obama authorized a drone attack on Anwar al-Awlaki on September 2011 overseas, so there is no question the Fort Hood shooter believed he was acting on behalf of Al-Qaeda. There is no one who can deny he shouted ''Allah akbar'' before opening fire, and no one who can deny he has since described the act as an act of jihad.

Yesterday I had the chance to question FBI Director James Comey, and I asked him whether he agreed with the assessment that this incident was ''workplace violence,'' which some have amazingly called this, or whether he thought this was an Al-Qaeda-inspired attack of terrorism here on America soil. His response—something I thought would have been painfully obvious—was yes, it was a terrorist attack in 2009.

Was the shooter a card-carrying member of Al-Qaeda? Well, I am not sure exactly what that is, but to me that is the wrong question entirely. We have to remember that Al-Qaeda leaders, such as Ayman al-Zawahiri has called upon his terrorist followers to commit dispersed, small-scale attacks exactly like the one that occurred at Fort Hood in 2009. We do know, from the rich evidence that was discovered during the prosecution of Major Hasan, that the Fort Hood shooter was most certainly a disciple of Anwar al-Awlaki.

The awarding of Purple Hearts should not be contingent on geography. In other words, if an Al-Qaeda-inspired terrorist kills a group of our brave men and women in uniform overseas, it shouldn't be treated any differently than if one of their inspired terrorists kills one of our members of the military here at home as well. The soldiers who were killed or wounded at Fort Hood were casualties of a global war on terror, period, and they deserve to be treated as such by the U.S. Government. They deserve the exact same recognition that military victims of Al-Qaeda's terrorist attack in New York on September 11, 2001, received—the same recognition they received—nothing more and nothing less.

Awarding them the Purple Heart is a matter of justice, a matter of honor, and a matter of honesty.

The House of Representatives has shown great leadership on these issues that should unite us both on the huge trafficking front and on the Purple Heart recognition I just mentioned. It is time now for the Senate to follow suit, and I hope the majority leader will help us get this legislation up, move it across the floor, pass it, and send it to the President so he can sign it into law.

SENATE OPERATION

The third point is that I cannot let the remarks of the majority leader this morning pass without comment—the remarks majority leader HARRY REID made on the floor this morning about how the Senate is being operated.

The majority leader came to the floor this morning and called the legislative process a game. He accused Republicans of stalling important pieces of legislation, such as the 55 provisions of the tax extenders bill that died last week in the Senate. But we need to be clear about exactly who is responsible and what has happened.

This is the third time in 2 weeks the majority leader has killed legislation which enjoys broad bipartisan support.

First, it was the energy efficiency bill known as the Shaheen-Portman bill. The majority leader killed that piece of legislation when he refused any opportunity—either for Democrats or Republicans—to offer any amendments and get votes on those amendments. If he had simply done that, that legislation would be on its way to President Obama today, if not already signed into law.

Then last week we saw these 55 expiring tax provisions, some of which enjoy broad bipartisan support, such as the research and development tax credit and the deduction for State sales tax, which is important to my State because income taxes paid at the State level are deducted from the Federal income tax bill of people who live in those States and pay State income tax.

As a matter of fairness and parity, I support a number of the provisions in the tax extenders bill. But when the majority leader brought it to the floor and he refused to allow any amendments whatsoever to this legislation, the minority, of which I am a member, had no choice but to stop that legislation in its tracks because that is the only leverage we had to wake up the majority leader and say it is important for the minority and the people we represent to have a voice in what happens on the Senate floor.

Our Founding Fathers decided that each State would get two Senators. But when one or maybe both of those Senators are in the minority party and if they are shut out of the legislative process entirely because all amendments and even constructive suggestions are denied, then my constituents—the 26 million people I represent in the State of Texas—have been shut out of the process and denied the constitutional representation they are guaranteed under our founding documents.

There is a theme that resulted in these bills killed by the majority leader; that is, since the 113th Congress,

the majority leader's utter refusal to allow debate and votes on amendments by Members of both parties—both parties.

While I am not happy about the fact that my constituents have been shut out of this process, I would think my Democratic friends' constituents can't be happy about the fact that they have been shut out of the process as well.

Here is an amazing statistic. Our Democratic Senators have introduced 676 amendments to bills on the floor since last July. That is 676 amendments not by the minority party but by the majority party that controls this body. Do we know how many votes they got on Democratic amendments? They got 7 votes on Democratic amendments since the beginning of the 113th Congress.

During that same period of time, Republicans have filed hundreds of amendments too. That used to be the way the Senate worked. Both parties participate, we represent our States, and we have full and open debate and an amendment process. Then we vote, the majority rules, and then bills get passed and sent to the President for signature. But no more under this majority leader. Now, during this same time frame, while Democrats only got 7 rollcall votes, the minority got 9 rollcall votes since last July.

So I find it a little ironic that, both on the energy efficiency bill and the tax extenders bill, it was Senate Republicans who stood up—not only for the right of minority party Senators to get votes on amendments they had filed, but also for the right of our Democratic colleagues in the majority party who have basically been frozen out of the process as well.

It might be true that constituents back home in those States where Democratic Senators were elected would be asking the question: Look. My Senator who I voted for, whom I support, is a Member of the majority party. But you're telling me that they can't participate in the legislative process by offering good ideas to make legislation better and to get votes? How ineffectual can you be?

I happen to know from talking to many of my Democratic colleagues that they are not happy about the process either. And it is not just about process. It is not just about the prerogatives of individual Senators. This is about the constitutional guarantees of representation by two Senators for each State, and the rights of the minority to participate in the process and the people that I represent back home in Texas being shut out of the process altogether.

So the Senate has become a virtual killing floor for good bipartisan ideas because of the way the majority leader has run the Senate.

Then there is what happened yesterday on the patent reform bill. I have been a member of the Judiciary Committee since the time I got to the Senate, and we have been working very hard to try to deal with the problem of patent trolls.

Patent trolls are big a problem in industries we wouldn't even suspect, including real estate, restaurants—not to mention high tech, pharmaceutical manufacturers, and the like. But what happens is people buy patents, not for the purpose of making something, not for the purpose of being productive, but for the purpose of having a basis upon which to file a lawsuit. Then they shake down small startups, the innovators, the people who we are depending upon to create new products that will make our lives better, make us healthier and make us all live longer, and help grow our economy to create jobs. These people are either being snuffed out altogether or are very much prejudiced in terms of their ability to grow because of all of this patent troll activity.

I have been working closely with the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Senator LEAHY, who has been working hard on this issue; Senator SCHUMER, the Senator from New York, a Democrat; Senator HATCH, who is a senior Member of the Judiciary Committee; and Senator GRASSLEY from Iowa, who is the ranking Republican on the Judiciary Committee. We were in a pretty good place yesterday where we thought, as a result of hard negotiations and good bipartisan work, we were going to be in the position for the chairman of the Judiciary Committee to mark up and to vote on a patent reform bill in the Senate Judiciary Committee this morning, only to be told last night that the majority leader basically killed that bill before it could even be acted on in the Judiciary Committee.

So this is the third time in 3 weeks the majority leader has basically been responsible for killing good bipartisan legislation—the energy efficiency bill, the tax extenders bill, and now the patent reform bill.

It is the majority leader's imperial leadership, where he is not just the floor leader for his party, he is not just the traffic cop for the Senate, but he is the one who wants to pick and choose who gets to participate in the legislative process. In the process, he has shut out not just Republicans but Democrats too, and he has turned this institution which used to be known as the world's greatest deliberative body into a pale imitation of what it used to be.

I continue to hope, maybe because I am an optimist by nature, that the majority leader will see the error of his ways and realize he is not only hurting my constituents but he is hurting the constituents of every Member of the Senate by denying us an opportunity for an open legislative process where everyone's voice can be heard, where the American people can watch and listen, where they can reach their own conclusions about the merits of each argument, and where they can hold us accountable for how we vote. That is what elections are supposed to be about.

So I hope some day the majority leader will change his attitude about an open legislative process and will help restore the Senate's status as the world's greatest deliberative body. I predict if he does not do that, the voters may well do that in November by changing the hands of the majority from the Democratic party to the current minority party. Then things will change, and this body will return to its status as the world's greatest deliberative body.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WALSH. Madam President, I served 33 years in the National Guard. When I joined the Guard, I swore an oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic. I have taken a similar oath as a Senator.

Former Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army Gordon Sullivan famously wrote, ''Hope is not a method.''

I didn't come to Congress to hope. I approach my work here with the lessons I learned in the military: Find solutions and work together to overcome challenges.

Unfortunately, that approach is not how it works in Washington. Too many people here don't care about solutions, and many ignore the problems.

There is no greater proof than climate change. Here we are in 2014, almost 50 years after President Johnson warned that ''by burning fossil fuels humanity is unwittingly conducting a vast geophysical experiment.''

Yet irresponsible leaders in Washington pretend that climate change isn't real. They pretend that humans aren't causing it. They hope they can go along with the status quo. But Montanans know better.

Here are the facts:

Carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere are now higher than at any time in human history.

The 12 hottest years on record have been in the last 15 years.

The average temperature in Montana is 2.5 degrees higher than in 1900.

And spring runoff now occurs 1 week to 4 weeks earlier.

In Montana, climate change has contributed to the worst mountain pine beetle epidemic in recorded history. The combination of mild weather and stressed trees has allowed beetles to spread further and longer. Their legacy is red trees, then dead trees, then wildfires like we have never seen before.

Fire season is now 11 weeks longer than when I was a kid. The amount of forest that burns in the West has doubled. Fires are burning longer and burning more trees each and every year.

The best guess from America's scientists is that 3 to 4 times more forest will burn each year by the middle of this century, devastating rural communities that rely on timber and tourism.

In 2000, I led the response of the Montana National Guard to the historic wildfires in Montana. We activated over 1,800 of Montana's soldiers and airmen. That year, about 1 million acres of Montana were burned. Businesses and landowners lost over $3 million a day.

Suppressing wildfires now consumes up to 40 percent of the Forest Service's budget. This is unsustainable. It reduces the agency's ability to fund other programs like hazardous fuel reduction and trail maintenance.

In Montana we have a saying that if you don't like the weather, stick around for an hour and it will change. But under climate change, it is changing across a wider range. Rains are falling more intensely, increasing erosion and runoff. The trend of more frequent and more intense rainfall is likely to continue. Heat waves and drought have also become more intense. What all of this means for Montana's agriculture is hard to predict, but without a doubt our biggest industry faces big uncertainty. The uncertainty in agriculture is especially true for water delivery, both for livestock and irrigated crops. As snow in the winter shifts to rain and extreme weather gets worse, it is becoming harder to run irrigation systems that were designed for the climate of 100 years ago.

We saw one of the worst droughts in history hit Montana ranchers and farmers in 2012. The year before Montana experienced a 500-year flood in the Missouri River Basin. Across the Great Plains the floods caused $2 billion in damage. Across the Nation we are paying out of our nose for extreme weather and natural disasters—$110 billion in damage in 2012 alone.

Climate change will also damage our tourism, which is Montana's second biggest industry. Glacier National Park itself is losing its namesake. Its ecosystem will change. Its cold water, which supports unique species and a strong trout fishery, will no longer be fed by melting ice. The communities in the Milk River Basin which receive 70 percent of their water from glaciers will also be impacted. Snowpack across the Rockies has already decreased 20 percent on average since 1980. In parts of Montana it may decrease by 50 percent in my lifetime.

Winter tourism in Montana is also big business, generating over $150 million in income and supporting over 4,500 jobs. But less snow means fewer jobs. Skiing and snowmobiling contribute $265 million to the Montana economy. During the low snowfall winters of 2002 and 2005, Montana ski resorts lost $16 million in revenue compared to heavy snow years.

Warmer temperatures also harm hunting, fishing, and our booming outdoor industry, which supports more than 64,000 jobs and attracts 11 million visitors to Montana each year. Warmer streams and fewer trout translate to direct reduction in Montana jobs. Stream closures in recent years because of warm water are the first proof of this threat. Nearly 50 percent of habitat for the bull trout and cutthroat trout could be lost in the West this century. Big game species such as moose and elk face similar threats with a warmer climate.

Rural communities across Montana are especially vulnerable to climate change. Many of them rely on single sectors tied to the land, from timber to grain to outfitting, and are less able to adapt to a changing economy.

I know what resource development looks like. My hometown of Butte was once known as ''the Richest Hill on Earth.'' The copper mined on that hill helped us win World War II, but today it is part of the largest Superfund site in America, including the Berkeley Pit. Mining continues to be an important industry in Montana, and Butte still churns out copper that is used around the world. Fortunately, Butte has also diversified. It now has good paying jobs in manufacturing and aerospace. One lesson I took from growing up there is we cannot afford another Berkeley Pit anywhere. Climate change is the equivalent of a Berkeley Pit: Ignore first; ask questions later.

Montanans understand the dilemma we are facing. We are the Treasure State. Our history is the history of resource development: from beaver trapping to the gold rush, copper mining to railroads and the open range, the homestead movement to the timber and fossil fuel booms. But along with the booms came a lot of busts.

In Montana we had to spend tons of money on fixing our past mistakes. Over $1.5 billion has been spent at our Superfund sites alone. Each year we spend another $13 million to clean up abandoned mine lands. If only our resources had been developed the right way the first time, all that money could have been spent on drinking water or better roads or lower student loans or researching cures for disease.

I know there are no easy solutions to the challenges we face today. Today 82 percent of energy used in the United States comes from fossil fuels. I am proud to represent a State with more than $1.6 billion in investment in wind energy since 2005. Renewable energy does have a bright future. A 2009 study ranked Montana's wind resources as the second best in the Nation. Montana also has potential for solar energy and is one of only 13 States with the potential to produce commercial geothermal energy. Renewables, including wind, are not always the right answer. Our current power grid has real physical limitations. I will continue supporting renewable energy and upgrades to the grid because we need to reduce our carbon emissions. But we cannot ignore today's reality.

Look at me standing here. I flew here on a plane that burns jet fuel. I am wearing cotton, and I eat wheat and corn, all of which depend on fertilizers, were irrigated using power from coal and natural gas, and were transported by diesel. I am speaking into a microphone and a camera that need electricity. In the United States in the year 2014, we either dig up or pipe up five-sixths of our entire energy. I couldn't do my job and visit Montanans without fossil fuel—and I understand that—and many of them wouldn't have jobs either.

Montana is one of about a dozen States that is a net exporter of energy. The oil and gas industry directly employs over 4,000 workers. Our unemployment rate in Montana is currently at 4.8 percent, in part because of the good jobs in the Bakken. We have 2,000 workers directly in the coal industry, from mining it to burning it to maintaining the boilers that burn it. Coal alone is responsible for over $100 million of revenue each year in the State and local economy. I don't agree with some people who want to just pull the plug on coal. The United States burns only 11 percent of the coal consumed globally each year. The less we invest in cleaning up coal, the less likely we are to make a dent in climate change. We cannot just take our ball and go home. That simply outsources our pollution problem to countries such as China.

I know firsthand of the value of domestic energy. In 2004 and 2005 I led the largest deployment of Montana men and women to war in 60 years, more than 700 of Montana's finest went with me to Iraq. Some of them didn't return home with me; some of them returned severely injured. The debate leading up to the war focused on weapons of mass destruction and the connection of Saddam Hussein to the war on terrorism, but since World War II our strategic interest in the Middle East has been oil. Our dependence on foreign oil should never again be a reason for war. I don't want countries forced to make military decisions or tempted to put soldiers on the ground because they are afraid that their economy will freeze up without energy from other countries. That means I want more oil responsibly produced here in the United States from places such as the Bakken. It means that I support a project like the Keystone XL Pipeline, which will make us more energy secure and strengthen the economy of eastern Montana, while ensuring precautions are taken to guarantee pipeline safety and reliability and protect private property rights. Private industry jump-started by government-funded research and development has already provided part of the solution. The access to tight oil and gas has made us more energy secure. The trend is in the right direction. Less than half of the oil consumed by Americans now comes from other countries.

Yet even if we continue to increase domestic production by displacing foreign oil, we are still exposed as a country to two risks. First, oil remains a necessary ingredient in our economy. Second, the oil market continues to be a global one, exposing us to price

swings that can seriously harm our own economy. Therefore, in addition to more domestic oil production, we need to diversify our transportation fuels. The growth of advanced biofuels in America is the way to do that. I support diversifying our fuel sources by developing homegrown alternatives such as biodiesel, jet fuel from camelina, and ethanol from wheat and barley to reduce demand for foreign oil.

I also support the military's continued investment in renewable energy. The impacts of climate change also have a strong national security connection. The Defense Department's Quadrennial Defense Review has found a direct link between climate change and national security threats like terrorism. Climate change is a threat multiplier. Higher sea levels and extreme weather increase poverty, humanitarian crises, and political instability.

I know what political instability abroad can mean. It can mean our servicemembers, our sons and daughters, will be put in harm's way in order to protect our way of life. As a veteran and someone who has sworn an oath to this country, these impacts concern me because they make us less safe.

Today despite all the evidence that climate change is harming us and will hurt our children and grandchildren even more, we seem stuck. Congress is handcuffed by folks who have their heads in the sand. Instead of taking responsibility to solve this problem, they are choosing to ignore it. The Clean Air Act has helped Americans tackle pollution for over 40 years because it was written to last. The Supreme Court has spoken and the law is clear. But using a section of the law drafted when the Beatles were still recording is not the ideal way to tackle climate change, given how much our understanding has evolved since then on pollution control. Ninety-seven percent of climate scientists agree that climate change is a human-caused problem. In the military 97 percent is about as certain as a mission can get. But that is not good enough here in Washington.

Climate change is another example of why Washington is broken. We have an agency writing regulations with enormous impact on all Montanans, using congressional directions written when I was a child. We have an agency trying to put out a fire with a trowel because that is the only tool it has. I am committed to putting the fire out because we cannot afford inaction. The benefits of acting are clear, but I would prefer to use the right tool for that job. Yet Washington is so broken that the alternative is to do nothing. Plan B is repeal. Plan B ignores reality. I cannot accept that.

I will be watching the EPA's Clean Air Act regulations closely to keep the agency accountable to Montanans and make any final rules workable for Montana. Members of Congress should be taking responsibility and upholding the oaths we all swore to. We should agree that climate change is a clear enemy and take steps to stop it.

I strongly support a bigger investment in securing a responsible future for coal: tax credits, loans, loan guarantees, and grants for carbon capture as well as sequestration. I have cosponsored bills and signed letters. I have pressed Senators to maintain existing incentives for coal. Coal does have a future, but it needs to lower its emissions. Montana is already leading the way with cutting-edge research in carbon sequestration. Beyond fossil fuels, our forests are a carbon sink, absorbing about 12 percent of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions each year. But climate change itself threatens this important service provided by our forests. More active management, especially under the new farm bill authority to address beetle-killed forests is critical. Getting the biogenic emissions rule right, on the largest possible geographic scale, is critical for forests to continue absorbing CO_2 emissions.

I support other energy options to reduce carbon emissions, including reduced energy demand overall and retrofitting nonpowered dams. Whatever rule the EPA proposes under the Clean Air Act for existing power plants, Montana and other States must take the lead role in implementation.

The United States has always led the way with innovative technology, from the first oil wells and nuclear reactors to the first solar cells and hydraulic fracturing. In fact, access to tight natural gas formations in the last decade has already helped lower our carbon-related emissions by 10 percent. Despite the serious challenges imposed by climate change, I am confident that America can innovate solutions while creating good paying jobs and new technology. But as a first step we cannot put our heads in the sand and continue with business as usual. The reason is simple. If we continue with business as usual, the people left with the mess will be the next generation.

The people left taking responsibility for our emissions will be my granddaughter Kennedy and all of our grandchildren. If we don't act now, Kennedy will grow up in a Montana that burns every summer. She won't be able to fly-fish because the rivers are too hot for trout. Kennedy will have to explain to her kids what glaciers were. When I took office, I swore an oath to make the right choice, and I am committed to solving climate change for Kennedy and for future generations.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded, and to speak as in morning business.

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

WRRDA PASSAGE

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Madam President, today the Senate passed the Water Resources Reform and Development Act. It has been too long since Congress last addressed our water infrastructure, and I want to applaud Chairwoman BOXER and Ranking Member VITTER for their diligent work and unswerving commitment to making this bill a reality.

The fact that an infrastructure bill of this magnitude can be passed without earmarks and with a balance of reforms and authorizations for critical projects is a testament to good leadership and a desire by Members of Congress on both sides of the Capitol to better our Nation.

One of the projects this bill advances is crucial to not only my State of Georgia but to the entire country. Passage of this bill, with the enhanced authorization it contains for the Savannah Harbor Expansion Project, will be the culmination of years of work for the State of Georgia and project stakeholders—and my entire time serving in the Georgia congressional delegation.

The idea to expand the Port of Savannah was in its infancy when I first came to Congress in 1994. The Port of Savannah had just been deepened, and we realized then that it was not enough; more and bigger ships were coming in. In 1996 a reconnaissance study was authorized to determine whether the port should be deepened even further. While the need to deepen the channel to accommodate larger ships has been a constant issue, the port itself has been able to operate and grow through its own innovation—Georgia ingenuity at its best. In fact, between 2000 and 2005, the Port of Savannah was recognized as the fastest growing seaport in the country. The port continues to grow and is consistently breaking its own records.

In 2006, the Panama Canal expansion was approved by a national referendum in Panama, officially kicking off the race in Savannah to get this project under construction. The people of Georgia told us this project needed to happen. All levels of the government—local, State, and Federal—from all political persuasions agreed and have given their utmost to this project. It has been my No. 1 economic priority for Georgia the entire time I have been in office.

The WRDA bill in 1999 gave the authorization to expand the port, and while there were cheers all around from those of us in the congressional delegation, little did we know of the tremendous battles yet to come. All the way until the present, every step has been a struggle. We have jumped 15 years of hurdles to bring this project to fruition.

I even recall one instance where we thought we had things taken care of from the standpoint of all the mitigation that needed to be done with the port, which is located on the Savannah River. We then found out there was an endangered species that needed to be

protected because the city of Augusta, which is 136 miles upstream, is also located on the Savannah River. We then had to go back, have another study done, and after months and months we finally came up with a fish ladder project that was to be installed in Augusta, 136 miles north of the Savannah Port, but we got that done.

We still may face more obstacles as we guide this project to completion, but the fact remains that for every $1 invested in the project, the Nation will see a nearly $6 return. For Georgia, the value of SHEP is almost immeasurable. The port already supports some 300,000 jobs across our State, and when post-Panamax vessels start rolling into Savannah, the economic benefits will increase dramatically.

Georgia has always been a great place to do business, and a big reason for that is we have had strong leadership at the State level—leaders who understand that making investments in economic development projects can give great returns.

In this case the Port of Savannah is an epicenter of worldwide commercial traffic. The imports and exports associated with this port expansion mean that jobs will be created not only in my home State but all throughout the country.

Congress has once again agreed with us that SHEP is a vital project for our country. Now that we have completed our work, it is imperative that the administration carry through with its commitments.

The Project Partnership Agreement, which is a document that details the construction plans for a Corps of Engineers project, needs to be finalized and signed immediately. I have complete faith in the ability of the Corps and the Georgia Ports Authority to get that document finished as soon as possible—based on their commitments to me and Senator ISAKSON.

We didn't close the book on this project today, but we did jump forward by several chapters. Ensuring the appropriate language was included in this bill to move SHEP forward and voting today for this bill have been the highlight of my final year in Congress and represent the culmination of years of work by me, Senator ISAKSON, as well as many others.

I want to state my thanks once more to Chairwoman BOXER and Ranking Member VITTER for working with us on this matter. Their tireless efforts have done more for this country and for Georgia than they may realize.

The work of those Senators and their staffs as well as the work of Chairman SHUSTER and Ranking Member RAHALL and their staffs on the House side will be felt by users of waterways on rivers and lakes, by barge operators, commercial and recreational boaters, by cities, counties, and States, and by everyone in this country who uses and consumes water.

This bill represents the fulfillment of a commitment I made to my constituents to see the harbor deepening through, and I look forward to the day when I am in Savannah and watch a big shovel go underwater to start deepening that port once again.

I suggest the absence of a quorum call.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

CHINESE TRADE PRACTICES

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I rise this afternoon to speak about the impact of this week's announcement that members of China's People's Liberation Army hacked into the computer systems owned by Pennsylvania companies to steal trade secrets on our trade policy.

As we all know, a grand jury in Pittsburgh indicted five individuals for hacking into several companies' computers and a labor organization, United Steelworkers, in western Pennsylvania. The companies included Westinghouse Electric, Alcoa, U.S. Steel and, as I mentioned, the United Steelworkers union. According to reports, the individuals in the indictment are accused of stealing trade secrets to benefit Chinese industry, which is heavily sponsored by the Chinese Government.

This is just the latest example of the unlevel playing field to which our domestic firms are subjected. To give an example, Pennsylvania, as are many areas around the United States, is experiencing an energy renaissance—Pennsylvania natural gas—which stands to greatly benefit the Commonwealth's economy. For the steel industry, it means the opportunity to sell a lot of pipe to natural gas drilling sites. Our foreign competitors also see this opportunity and have responded by aggressively pursuing our market. This competition is expected and would be OK if—if—it was fair. Of course, in this instance it is not.

In fact, our domestic steel industry is facing a new crisis. After successfully beating back unfair competition from the Chinese, our domestic producers are facing a surge of imports from around the globe. According to a recent report by the Economic Policy Institute, domestic steel imports increased by almost 13 percent from 2011 to 2013. Without action, we stand to lose half a million jobs around the United States and some 35,000 in Pennsylvania alone. Just from this action, just from them flooding our markets in a way that is illegal and unfair, half a million jobs could be lost. We can't afford to send these good-paying jobs overseas.

We should act to level the playing field for our domestic steel industry by aggressively enforcing our trade laws and providing essential relief to this critical industry. For too long unfair trade practices and economic policies have cost jobs in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and across the country.

I will return now to the recent indictment I mentioned at the outset of my remarks.

This move is further evidence of China's anticompetitive trade practices. What I just said is an understatement. These trade practices have taken a dramatic toll on Pennsylvania businesses and pose a threat to our national security.

The Obama administration has taken steps to crack down on China, but we must also pursue congressional action. We know that currency manipulation continues to take a huge toll on U.S. businesses. Last Congress, the Senate passed a tough bill to help level the playing field for our companies by holding countries that undervalue their currency accountable. The House failed to take up this important bill. We must take action.

I am an original cosponsor of the Currency Exchange Rate Oversight Reform Act of 2013. I call on all Senators to turn our attention to this bill to send a strong message to the Chinese Government that they cannot continue to cheat our companies. When China cheats, we lose jobs. It is that simple. The evidence is overwhelming. Our bipartisan bill will help American manufacturers and workers by clarifying that our trade enforcement laws can and should be used to address currency undervaluation. More broadly, the bill would improve oversight by establishing objective criteria to identify misaligned currencies. Also, it would impose tough consequences for offenders.

I believe strongly that before proceeding with our busy trade agenda, as some might want to do, and passing additional trade agreements or fast-track legislation, we should take a close look at our trade enforcement policies first, including aggressively addressing currency manipulation.

Pennsylvania companies are some of the best in the world, and I am committed to cracking down on unfair trade practices that hurt their ability to compete.

Madam President, I yield the floor and note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to finish this speech.

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

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about our Nation's first freedom—religious liberty.

Last week a court in Sudan sentenced a woman to death for converting from Islam to Christianity and gave her just days to recant. Sadly, this sort of tragic oppression is common across the globe.

The Pew Research Center says that three-quarters of the world's people live where restrictions on religion are high or very high and that religious hostilities have been increasing for years.

In the last 10 years the number of countries on the Commission on International Religious Freedom's watch list has grown by 150 percent. Simply put, religious freedom is increasingly in peril around the globe.

When compared to the rest of the world, some might think that religious liberty in America is alive and well. But, in truth, basic religious freedom is under attack here at home. Professor Thomas Berg writes that ''establishing freedom of religion as both constitutional principle and social reality is among America's greatest contributions to the world.'' But we have to ask ourselves whether meaningful religious liberty is still such a reality in American society and whether our Nation is still making that essential contribution to a world that needs it now more than ever.

Hundreds of books, studies, papers, articles, and court decisions have explored various aspects, nuances, and implications of religious freedom. In the coming days and weeks, I will explore some of these issues in greater detail. Today I wish to speak about the definition and importance of religious freedom in America as seen both in history and in four important documents.

For 170 years before Thomas Jefferson penned the Declaration of Independence, one religious society after another came to America so that they could live their faith. Puritans, Congregationalists, Roman Catholics, Jews, Quakers, Baptists, Presbyterians, and Methodists had all found refuge in the British Colonies by the time the United States was born. Roger Williams founded Rhode Island as a haven for religious dissenters. William Penn established religious liberty in the colony that bears his name.

From its earliest days, religious freedom in America has been freedom not only of belief but also of behavior. In addition to our Nation's early heritage, four key documents establish the same understanding of religious freedom as encompassing both belief and behavior in both private and public spheres.

The first document is the U.S. Constitution. The First Amendment protects the free exercise of religion, a phrase that on its face plainly includes conduct as well as belief. It is a phrase that had been in use for more than a century when America's Founders placed it in the First Amendment. The plain meaning of this phrase, as well as its history, is simply incompatible with the view that our constitutional freedom of religion is limited to the profession of belief and somehow excludes religious conduct.

As Professor Michael McConnell, director of the Constitutional Law Center at Stanford and perhaps America's leading scholar of religious liberty has shown, such an artificial and cramped view is unsupportable. By its own terms our First Amendment protects both religious faith and action.

The second document is the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which the United States signed in 1984. Article 18 states that every person has the fundamental ''right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion,'' and that ''this right includes . . . freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.''

Plainly stated, religious liberty by its very nature encompasses both belief and behavior. In articulating broad principles of basic human rights, the authors of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights acknowledge that it is meaningless to have one without the other.

The third document is the Religious Freedom Restoration Act. In 1990, the U.S. Supreme Court held that government needs only a rational basis for laws that burden but do not target the free exercise of religion. That decision changed decades of Supreme Court precedent that had required a compelling reason for laws that burden the exercise of religion.

This shift was not just some legalistic or semantic exercise. If government needs only a rational justification for burdening the exercise of religion, it could do so essentially at will, but if government must have a compelling reason, it must respect the fundamental liberty and may burden it only when absolutely necessary.

By shifting from one standard to the other, the Supreme Court made it dramatically easier for government to burden the free exercise of religion. Congress responded to the Supreme Court's decision with the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, or RFRA, which established the compelling standard. It passed the House unanimously by voice vote and the Senate by a vote of 97 to 3.

I was the primary Republican cosponsor of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act in the Senate. In all of our discussions about RFRA, both Democrats and Republicans were united on one fundamental principle, the right of all Americans to the free exercise of religion should be equally protected.

I remember when I went to Ted Kennedy, I said: You are going to be on this bill with me.

He said: No, I am not.

I said: Yes, you are.

To his credit, he came on the bill. By the time we articulated on the floor and afterward when it was signed by President Clinton at the White House, on the White House south lawn, one of the biggest boosters was my friend Ted Kennedy.

The fact is I will make that point again. As the primary sponsor of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act in the Senate, in all of our discussions about RFRA, both Democrats and Republicans were united on one fundamental principle: the right of all Americans to the free exercise of religion should be equally protected.

Each religious claim should be judged by the same standard as every other, a standard that reflects the true importance of religious freedom. We rejected amendments that would have excluded some religious claims or favored others.

In October 1993 I spoke in favor of RFRA on the Senate floor, explaining that the bill would restore to all Americans protections of the free exercise of their religious conviction. In fact, I stated directly that exempting anyone from the basic principle of free exercise would set a dangerous precedent.

The fourth and final document is the International Religious Freedom Act enacted in 1998. The House passed it by an overwhelming bipartisan majority. The Senate followed suit by a vote of 98 to 0. This law established the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, and declared that ''the right to freedom of religion undergirds the very origin and existence of the United States.''

It cited the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and reaffirmed yet again that religious freedom necessarily includes both belief and practice, individually or collectively, in public or in private. As the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom has explained, by its very nature religious liberty is ''a broad, inclusive right, sweeping in scope, embracing the full range of thought, belief, and behavior.''

It is central to human identity and dignity. It is essential to individual and social well-being. It is beneficial to political, economic, and civic life. Religious freedom is a fundamental constitutional liberty as well as a universal human right.

In America religious liberty has always included both the freedom to believe and the freedom to act on that belief, the protection to do so collectively as well as individually, and the right to do so publicly as well as privately. Those basic tenets form the only proper standard by which to assess the state of religious freedom in America today.

Unfortunately, there is much cause for concern. Let me share a few disturbing examples. The equal and universal application of religious liberty is now in doubt. Congress was united when enacting the Religious Freedom Restoration Act that the right to exercise religion freely belongs to everyone and should be protected by the same rigorous standard in each case.

When balanced against important government interests, some religious claims would win and others would lose, but a rigorous legal standard that

creates a high hurdle for government action that burdens religion must be applied universally, since the free exercise of religion is a fundamental right of all Americans.

That conviction, however, is unraveling. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Title VII of that landmark law prohibits workplace discrimination based on religion and requires that employers reasonably accommodate the religious practices of employees. The Supreme Court, however, interpreted the ''reasonably'' so broadly that the exception swallowed the rule and workers have been without this legal protection ever since.

Legislation called the Workplace Religious Freedom Act was introduced to reestablish legal protection and accommodation for religious workers. Originally, it applied this protection to all religious claims, just as RFRA required. It would balance the right to religious exercise with the legitimate needs of employers, but the most recent version of this legislation introduced in the 112th Congress abandoned universal applicability and instead would protect some religious claims but not others.

Rather than allowing religious claims of all varieties to stand or fall under the same standard, some claims were covered and others were excluded from that standard altogether. This is not the only example of religious liberty under attack. Among its many other maladies, ObamaCare likewise struck a blow to the free religious exercise of religion.

Although President Obama has called religious freedom a universal human right, his administration apparently paid that fundamental liberty no regard when drafting ObamaCare. Likewise, the Religious Freedom Restoration Act plainly states that its basic religious protections apply to every future Federal statute. Yet the Obama administration gave no consideration whatsoever to such religious freedom in formulating the President's signature law, ObamaCare.

As a result, dozens of lawsuits have challenged ObamaCare's requirement that employers provided no-cost health insurance coverage for abortifacient drugs and devices as a violation of RFRA's plain protections. Two of those cases are before the Supreme Court, one from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit and one from the Third Circuit.

In the face of its clearly universal requirement, the Obama administration nevertheless argued that the Religious Freedom Restoration Act does not apply to these plaintiffs. Despite the statute's plain text, Obama officials insist that the law does not apply to all cases after all. One step at a time, they seek to exclude classes of citizens from the basic protections of religious liberty.

My final two examples involve recent Supreme Court decisions. In Hosanna-Tabor v. EEOC, the Supreme Court unanimously held that the First Amendment's protection for the free exercise of religion allows a church to choose its own ministers. The Obama administration argued instead that civil rights statutes trump the Constitution and allow judges to dictate to churches who may serve as ministers.

In fact, as the Supreme Court described it, Obama administration lawyers were so dismissive of religious freedom that they argued churches were no different in this regard than labor unions or social clubs. Can you imagine that? To the Obama administration, the First Amendment and its protection for the free exercise of religion apparently offers no real protection at all. Thankfully, the Supreme Court responded this way: ''We cannot accept the remarkable view that the Religion Clauses have nothing to say about a religious organization's freedom to select its own ministers.''

Finally, just 2 weeks ago, the Supreme Court held that allowing citizens to offer a prayer of their choice to open a town meeting is not an establishment of religion, but four Justices joined a dissenting opinion arguing that only certain prayers, using certain language, in a certain pattern, would achieve a certain level of diversity and therefore be permissible. Four Justices actually believe Federal judges may dictate the content and presentation of prayers offered by private citizens.

I can offer many more examples of how our Nation's cherished religious freedom is under attack, with forces seeking to limit, regulate, manipulate, and undermine the most basic natural and constitutional rights we possess.

I mentioned at the outset that three-quarters of the world's population lives under substantial religious restriction. Here at home, the same percentage of Americans believes that religion is losing its influence in American life. Liberal politicians, secular activists, and even some judges are seeking to reduce religion to what Justice Antonin Scalia described as ''a purely personal avocation that can be indulged entirely in secret, like pornography, in the privacy of one's room.''

It is no wonder that nearly one-quarter of Americans say religious freedom is more threatened than any other First Amendment freedom. These recent efforts mark a radical departure from the religious freedom that took root in our colonial experience, was nourished by the Declaration of Independence, earned a primary place among our constitutional liberties, and has been generously applied by generations of Americans.

The notion that religious freedom belongs only to some, even then only in private, stands in direct opposition to our traditions, our laws, and our beloved Constitution. Some peoples throughout the world may be bound by oppressive governments that strictly regulate who may express their religious faith, when they may practice the tenets of their faith, and where they may act according to their religious convictions.

But that is not America's heritage, and it must not be our future. Instead, America must once again be a beacon of religious freedom for all—protecting rights of conscience at home and promoting religious liberty throughout the world—and I expect it to be that.

I am hopeful our courts will come to their senses—the ones that aren't there—and realize this was listed as the first freedom in the Bill of Rights for a very good reason; that is, because our Founding Fathers knew how important religion is to a nation that wants to be free.

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

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. There have been a number of inquiries and statements made today, one by the Chamber of Commerce, saying the reason that Stanley Fischer, the Vice Chair of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, hasn't been done is because of me. Try that one on for size.

That is what happens around here. Here is a man who has been approved with a very strong vote, a strong vote, bipartisan vote, to be a member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. He is eminently qualified, nationally and internationally. You can't become vice chair until you become a member of the board.

Janet Yellen has called, the Chairman of the Federal Reserve, and said: It would really be important. He has administrative duties that we need his help with.

So I have made inquiry with my Republican colleagues: Why don't we do him? We have already approved him. But we have a situation around here where no one gets approved. We will eat up time, this will take hours—wasted time—and then we will approve him. In the meantime, all we do is eat up the taxpayers' time.

Anyway, without further dialog from me, I would simply say that the Chamber of Commerce and others should understand every person on this side of the aisle would approve him in a second. I would do it by unanimous consent. I would have a vote as soon as we can, which, without having filed cloture, wouldn't be until we get back a week from Monday.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—CALENDAR NO. 767

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 767, the nomination of Stanley Fischer

to be Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for a term of 4 years; that the nomination be confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nomination; that any related statements 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. Is there objection?

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator PAUL, I will have to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. REID. May the RECORD be spread that HARRY REID, who is being blamed for this nomination not being put forward, is not at fault. I don't mind taking the fall for some things—and I probably have deserved a few things—but not this.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HATCH. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I note for the record that I support Mr. Fischer for this position, but there is a legitimate objection by a Senator on our side that I had to advance. I hope we can resolve these problems, but I appreciate the distinguished majority leader's attempt to do this today.

With that, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HEITKAMP). Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, I want to tell my colleagues a story about Charlene Dill.

On March 21 Charlene Dill was supposed to bring her three children over to the South Orlando home of her best friend Kathleen. The two friends had cultivated a really close relationship since 2008. They shared every resource they had from debit card pins to transportation to babysitting to house keys. They helped one another out. They essentially had become each other's safety net.

As Kathleen described it, they hustled. They picked up short-term work. They went to every event they could get free tickets to for their kids. They lived the high life on the lowdown. They cleaned houses for friends just so they could afford the daily necessities of life. They were the quintessential working poor, and they existed in the shadows of this economic recovery that is yet to reach a lot of average people out there.

On March 21, when Dill never showed up with her three kids, who often came over to play with Kathleen's 9-year-old daughter, Kathleen was surprised she didn't even get a phone call from her friend Charlene. She shot her a text message—something along the lines of ''thanks for ditching me''—without knowing what had really happened.

Charlene, who was estranged from her husband, had been raising her 3 children alone—ages, 3, 7, and 9. She had picked up another odd job to try to pay the bills. She was selling vacuums on commission for Rainbow Vacuums.

On that day, in order to make enough money to survive and—as you will understand—keep herself alive, she made two last-minute appointments. At one of those appointments in Kissimmee, she collapsed and died on a stranger's floor.

Charlene had a documented heart condition for which she took medication, but she often could not afford the medication, and her friend Kathleen often had to turn to crowd-funding Web sites to help raise the money that her friend Charlene needed to pay for her heart medication. Charlene was the working poor, but she was also among the uninsured. After her death, her friend Kathleen used that same crowd-funding method that she used to occasionally pay for her friend's medication to pay for Charlene's funeral.

Florida has made the decision not to expand Medicaid coverage under the Affordable Care Act. They have made a decision—for political reasons—to keep hundreds of thousands of people such as Charlene among the ranks of the uninsured. The consequences are for many such as Charlene absolutely deadly.

Charlene died because she was on the outside of our health care system. Occasionally she would get to see a doctor and occasionally she would get the medication she needed for her condition—in part—because she had one good friend who went out of her way to try to help Charlene.

The reality is that there are 5.7 million people all across this country who have been denied the chance to get health care through Medicaid simply because their Governors or their State legislatures have decided to score a political point against a President whom they don't like by refusing Federal dollars in order to expand Medicaid, and that is what this is all about. This is not about good policy, this is not about health care, and this certainly is not about finances. This is just about a bunch of really angry Republicans that don't want to participate in a health care reform law passed by Democrats even though they are essentially giving away the money of their constituents.

The first reason you should do this is because it keeps people such as Charlene alive. A 2002 Harvard study of 3 States that expanded Medicaid—Arizona, Maine, and New York—showed that the expansion of Medicaid in those States was responsible for a 6-percent reduction in mortality as compared to other States. It found that for every 500,000 adults that gained Medicaid coverage, we prevent 3,000 deaths a year.

I am not really good with quick math, but that is 3,000 deaths prevented for 500,000 people covered by Medicaid. We are talking about 5.7 million adults that are being denied Medicaid because of these political decisions; that is a lot of people who are dying needlessly every year. That is the first reason you should do it, because it is the right and compassionate thing to do.

The second reason you should do it is because people in States such as Virginia or Texas—there are 1.2 million people in Texas alone. There are 1.2 million people who could have health care insurance but don't have health insurance in one State because the Governor and legislature don't like President Obama.

This is also about those constituents essentially giving their money away to other States. The message to people in States such as Florida, Virginia, and Texas is that you are funding people getting insurance in other States because the Federal Government is contributing almost the entire cost of this Medicaid expansion. Texas and Florida's dollars are going to Washington and being spent to subsidize the health care of somebody else. It does not make any sense from a health care standpoint and it certainly doesn't make any sense from a fiscal standpoint. It is not just the taxpayers and patients who are getting hurt, but it is all the health care providers as well.

An Urban Institute study found that hospitals across the country are being denied $294 billion because of this refusal to expand Medicaid. The Presiding Officer knows this because she has worked in and around health care policy her entire life. This idea that denying people health care insurance denies them health care is patently false. They get health care. They just don't get it until they are so sick they show up at the emergency room door and their condition is at a crisis point, and then that costs infinitely more. All of this money we are spending could be spent in a different place, such as on preventive care, instead of on crisis care.

With a new Secretary of HHS, there is an opportunity for these States to think differently. From the beginning, HHS has been incredibly willing to be flexible with Governors who are not quite sure of the politics of joining in the ACA but know it is the right thing to do. States such as Arkansas, Iowa, and Pennsylvania have come up with innovative programs in which they take the Medicaid expansion dollars and instead of using them to expand State-based Medicaid, they use those

dollars to help people buy private coverage. It seems to make a lot of sense to me.

At her confirmation hearing, Ms. Burwell said she was willing to continue to be as flexible as she possibly could with States that want to explore these innovative methods. Hopefully, with a new Secretary coming through the doors at HHS, maybe this is a new moment for these States to take another look at Medicaid expansion because this is just a matter of conscience.

Madam President, 5.7 million people are going without health care and potentially dying, as Charlene Dill did, simply because of politics.

David from Virginia wrote:

I am the coverage gap. I am a single 41-year-old male. I save Medicaid thousands of dollars per month by caring for my 99-year-old grandmother at home without pay, rather than place her in a nursing home at Medicaid's expense. I do not qualify for Medicaid even though I have a zero income. I have to cross the state line, into Kentucky to receive potentially lifesaving cancer screenings and hopefully receive treatment if I get bad news. Virginia Republicans hate the president and governor so much, they are willing to let thousands of us die. It is high time that these delegates place human lives ahead of party politics and do what is right, for a change!

Eight million people have signed up through the exchanges. Despite these decisions by Governors and Republican State legislatures, 5 to 6 million more have been added to Medicaid, and 3 million young adults have coverage for the first time.

Prices to the Federal Government are falling. We are spending trillions less than we thought we would spend on health care because of the Affordable Care Act. Quality is increasing. The number of readmissions to hospitals and hospital-acquired infections are decreasing because we are starting to pay for outcomes instead of paying for performance.

People are figuring out that the Affordable Care Act works, and that is why there are fewer Republicans coming to the floor of the Senate and the House complaining about it, and that is why the Koch brothers and others have stopped running all of these ads about the Affordable Care Act.

The Affordable Care Act works, but it only works if leaders actually try to implement it. It doesn't work if you ignore it for political spite, and that is what is happening in State legislatures and Governors' mansions all across the country.

We have a new Secretary of HHS and a new willingness of a lot of Republican Governors, including Mike Pence in Indiana, to take a look at trying to reverse this reality for 5½ million people who—if not for the political actions of their State leaders—could also figure out, as millions and millions of others are doing on a daily basis across the country, that the Affordable Care Act works.

I yield the floor and note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

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

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

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

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

HEALTH CARE

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I come to the floor after having just heard my friend and colleague from Connecticut talk about the health care law. As a doctor, I am always happy to hear about people who are getting better care. My concern is that there are so many people across this country who have been hurt as a result of this health care law that I feel compelled to speak about so many of the side effects of the President's health care law and families who are seeing the government waste massive amounts of money that is not going for care. It is not helping people actually get better. It is not giving them the care they need from a doctor they choose at lower costs, which is what the President promised when he said premiums would drop by $2,500.

I heard the President, as well as my colleague here today, say that this law will help keep people out of emergency rooms and they will go to primary care doctors instead. So I feel compelled to come to the floor to share with my colleagues a study that just came out on Wednesday, and perhaps some Members of the Senate who weren't aware of it will be made aware that the emergency room visits actually have been going up, not down, despite the law. This was the headline in the Wall Street Journal this past Wednesday, May 21: ''ER Visits Rise Despite Law. Health Act Isn't Cutting Volume.''

I will point out a couple of things mentioned in this article. It starts off:

Early evidence suggests that emergency rooms have become busier since the Affordable Care Act expanded insurance coverage this year, despite the law's goal of reducing unnecessary care in ERs.

My colleague said emergency rooms aren't going to be needed as much. Well, despite the law's goal of reducing unnecessary care in ERs, what we see is an expensive side effect of the President's health care law.

It goes on to say:

Democrats who designed the 2010 health law hoped it would do the opposite. They wanted to give the uninsured better access to primary-care doctors who could treat routine ailments and prevent chronic diseases, with the intent of keeping patients out of the ER. The median ER charge was more than $1,200 for the most frequent outpatient diagnoses in a study of over 8,000 ER visits in the years 2006–08, said a 2013 report funded in part by the National Institutes of Health.

This is a report by the NIH.

Instead, the ER doctor group's research and several other recent studies suggest that people who gain private insurance are more likely to seek emergency care.

Not more likely to go to a family physician, not more likely to go to their own internist or pediatrician; more likely to go to the emergency room—the most expensive place for care—despite what the President told the American people.

Among the reasons is that a shortage of primary-care providers in some regions has made it difficult for patients to get appointments.

So why is there a shortage? Well, if the President's health care law actually focused on training physicians, putting money into educating and training more providers, instead of putting all of this money into hiring IRS agents to examine Americans' tax returns to make sure they check the box that says they have insurance and can provide proof of that, perhaps we wouldn't have these problems. But now we are seeing a very expensive side effect of the President's health care law.

While we can celebrate people who are helped by the law, there are so many people being hurt by the law in every State around this great country. We heard about a family from Connecticut who has benefited from the law. There are many who have been hurt.

There is a couple in Sharon, CT, according to NBC Connecticut. They were dropped, according to the headline, from their health care plan. It says:

A Sharon couple says they are running out of options after being dropped from their ObamaCare insurance plan. John and Dawn DiMarco signed up for an Affordable Care Act plan through the state health insurance exchange during open enrollment. They received their insurance card and were covered but their bill was thousands of dollars more than advertised.

What could happen there?

It says:

They spent weeks going back and forth with various State agencies and the insurance company to try to get answers.

This is dated May 13 of this year.

Then, this month, their carrier, Anthem BlueCross BlueShield, sent them a cancellation notice. The DiMarcos have been so frustrated with trying to get answers that they posted a sign outside their home that reads—

This is in Connecticut—

''We have no insurance because Access Health has a computer glitch.''

It's stressful, says Mr. DiMarco. It's overwhelming.

So why did this happen?

Well, NBC Connecticut contacted Access Health Connecticut, and they told them that it had to do with a computer issue with a vendor, and when this gentleman went back to change information during the enrollment process, a new form was sent to the insurance company, but that form didn't include the couple's subsidy. So the form paperwork was wrong.

How could this happen? Is it just this one DiMarco couple whom this has

happened to in Connecticut? Not according to a front-page story in the Washington Post the other day. The headline is ''Federal health-care subsidies may be too high or too low for more than 1 Million Americans''—paying incorrect subsidies to more than 1 million Americans for their health plans, and the government has been unable so far to fix the errors.

The President of the United States goes on TV and says to the Democrats: Forcefully defend and be proud.

Who in America can be proud of the mess the President and his administration have made of the Web site and this health care bill? Once again, we see, as the Washington Post points out, important aspects of the Web site remain defective. They cannot fix this. Actually, I am not even sure how hard they are trying. People have been sending in paperwork. They are expecting, perhaps, by the end of the summer to be able to address the problem that there are 1 million Americans whose Federal health care subsidies may be either too high or too low.

''Forcefully defend and be proud.'' Where are they? Where are these defenders? It is sad because the idea is this is to actually help people get care. What people have gotten is headaches and heartaches and one problem after another.

It is also interesting, as a doctor who has been very involved with preventive care and working on early detection of problems and as somebody who has been the medical director of the Wyoming health fairs—I think it is important to screen people for problems. It is interesting. The New York Times even reported in an article written on April 30 on the problem with the health care law that it favors screening over diagnosis. So here is one of the issues that come into play.

My wife is a breast cancer survivor. She has been through three operations, chemotherapy twice, radiation, the whole thing. She is now cancer free. We are delighted. So I think screening tests are important. But this is the problem with this law that I believe very few Democrats read—very few of the people who voted for it read. I believe that about Members of the House and Members of the Senate. I read it cover to cover, but I believe many Members who voted for it never read it.

They say: Diagnosis is what we offer to those who have no signs or symptoms of disease. Because diagnosis isn't prevention, it is subject to deductibles and copays.

So if somebody actually has a diagnosis of something, there are deductibles and copays, but if it is just a screening test, no signs or symptoms, then it is covered.

The New York Times goes on:

> In other words: A woman over 40 can have a free screening mammogram.

She shows up and says: I want a free screening mammogram. But if she notices a breast lump and goes to her doctor to have it evaluated, well, then it is not a screening mammogram. Then it is not a free test. So she will pay for the diagnostic mammogram that costs $300.

This goes on:

> So the woman at lower risk for cancer—the one with no signs or symptoms of the disease—has an incentive to be tested, while the woman at higher risk—the one with the lump—faces a disincentive.

So she goes to the doctor. This goes on and says that the problem is they are now pressuring doctors to fraudulently change the paperwork so it complies with the screening test and not a diagnostic test. Doctors don't want to do that because they want to be honest. Yet the incentives set up in this program are to discourage the woman who finds a lump from actually going in to have the test, while encouraging somebody off the street to go in and have a similar test. It is a great concern.

So when I see a colleague come to the floor to say that the health care law, in his opinion, works—I will tell my colleagues, this is an Associated Press story that says: ''Consumers frustrated by new health plans as they find their doctors are not included.'' They can't go to their doctor.

This is a story out of California. Michelle Pool is one of those customers. Before enrolling in a new health plan on California's exchange, she checked whether her longtime primary care doctor was covered. This woman, Michelle Pool—60 years of age, a diabetic; she has had back surgery and a hip replacement—purchased the plan only to find that the insurer was mistaken; the doctor wasn't included. So her $352-a-month gold plan, she said, was cheaper than what she had paid under her husband's insurance and it seemed like a good deal because of her numerous preexisting conditions.

I understand preexisting conditions as the husband of a woman who has been through breast cancer treatment. This goes on to say:

> But after her insurance card came in the mail, the Vista, California resident learned her doctor wasn't taking her new insurance.

It goes on to say, quoting this woman:

> ''It's not fun when you've had a doctor for years and years that you can confide in and he knows you,'' Pool said. ''I'm extremely discouraged. I'm stuck.''

This is an American who is stuck and hurt by the health care law. It goes on to say:

> The dilemma undercuts President Obama's—

This is an Associated Press article—

> The dilemma undercuts President Obama's 2009 pledge that: ''If you like your doctor, you will be able to keep your doctor, period.''

The President said: ''period.'' But one of the side effects of the President's health care law is that people are continuing to lose their doctors.

It goes on to say:

> Consumer frustration over losing doctors comes as the Obama administration is still celebrating a victory with more than 8 million enrollees in its first year.

There are astronomical concerns that people across the country are expressing about this health care law. And yet—and yet—we see one Member of the other party coming to the floor and saying: Oh, it is working.

The American people do not believe it is.

People get insurance through work. The laws are interesting. This is a story from Ohio about the cost because that is what really people were concerned about when we wanted to do health care reform; it was to say let's get the cost down. The President promised families would see a $2,500 reduction in the cost of their insurance policies in a year once all of this was implemented. But one of the side effects is actually higher premiums. This article talks about a man who owns a popular brew pub in Cleveland. He has fewer than 50 full-time employees. So he is classified under the health care law as a small business, which means he does not actually have to provide health insurance to his employees. But he has been doing so. He has been doing so since he opened this pub a number of years ago, and he has done it in spite of some fairly significant jumps in the cost of the insurance.

He said: ''They just seemed to keep going up every year.''

He opened this pub in 2009. One year he got an increase of 38 percent; another it was 11 percent.

The article says: ''This year, under the Affordable Care Act, he saw another hike—this one about 20 percent.'' So he is seeing higher premiums. He said: ''It just seems odd that we get such a drastic price increase when nothing has really changed with us as far as our employees and health issues.''

> Most of the workers at [his place] are in their 20s and 30s. They are healthy, enthusiastic about their jobs. . . .

They like the fact that they get insurance, but they are getting priced out of the market. That is the concern about this: the health care law is making premiums go up.

From today, Thursday, May 22, The Hill newspaper, right here in Washington, DC: ''Premium hike drumbeat before Nov. Election Day.''

People continue to be shocked by the increases in the cost of their insurance, and they are going to go up again across the country. There are a number of reasons for that. We have seen it in North Carolina, where I expect this is going to be discussed and debated over the next months.

> Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina. . . .

This comes from the Herald-Sun in North Carolina: ObamaCare enrollees older, sicker than insurer forecast—older and sicker than what the President told—actually it was not the President; it was Kathleen Sebelius, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, when she described what she

thought success would look like in terms of the number of young healthy people who would sign up. It says:

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina officials said—

This is dated May 8—

. . . that they found that the people who enrolled in the individual Affordable Care Act plans it sold on the online health exchanges were older and sicker than expected. That may mean higher rates—

Higher premiums—

for Affordable Care Act plans in the future. . . .

The insurer's vice president of health policy said: ''[It's] a concern when we think about future premiums.''

They have great concerns about the amount things are going to go up. That is not what people want. People wanted affordable care. They wanted access to care. They wanted to get the care they need from a doctor they choose at lower cost. What they see is waste—money not going to help people get care, but money being wasted.

I found it interesting coming out of Missouri, a story about how an ObamaCare contractor pays employees to spend their days doing nothing—doing nothing—paying their employees to do nothing.

''A billion dollar government contract involving hundreds of local workers at an ObamaCare processing center. . . . ''

So these are people hired by the government or a contractor to work at an ObamaCare processing center—hundreds of local workers.

''But now employees on the inside are stepping forward, asking, Is this why we're broke? Some of them claim to spend most of their day doing nothing,''. . . .

This is reported in St. Louis.

The contractor is called Serco and local reporters discovered that, despite there not being any work to be done, the government contractor is still hiring.

Why would they be hiring? Because they get a percent of the action. That is why they are hiring. They are hiring people to not do anything, to take the paycheck. The article continues:

''The company is still hiring,'' says a local reporter. ''A current employee wonders why. . . . After providing proof of employment, this . . . employee agreed to speak through the phone with their voice altered. The employee says hundreds of employees spend much of the day staring at computer screens, with little or no work to do.''

The reporter asks the employee, ''Are there some days where a data entry person may not process a single application?''

Not a single application? The person who works there said: ''There are weeks''—weeks—''when a data entry person would not process an application.''

The anonymous employee says the contract gets paid by the federal government per employee hired.

That is why they are continuing to hire—because the company gets paid by the Federal Government per employee hired, which is why it is in their interest to have a bunch of employees sitting around all day doing nothing.

So I have to feel an obligation, when I hear a statement on the floor being made that says: Well, a lot fewer people are going to go to the emergency room; it is going to save money—that has not happened. Studies from emergency room doctors, work from the NIH said it is not happening. The exact opposite has happened—a side effect of the health care law, when we see that people are not able to keep their doctors, in spite of the President promising people that if you like your doctor, you can keep your doctor. I feel compelled to come to the floor and share that story with those of us who care about care for patients, who care about finding a way to make sure patients get the care they need from a doctor they choose at lower cost. That is what people want. They know what they want. They want access to care. They want affordable care. They want care, they want choices, and they want quality care.

I believe this health care law is turning out to be bad for patients, bad for providers—the doctors, the nurses, the paramedics, the nurse practitioners—who take care of those patients, and terrible for the taxpayers when we hear stories like this one out of Missouri, which says the employees are being paid to sit around and do nothing, when we hear there are a million people who are just waiting to try to get the government to correct something that should have been fixed in the beginning, when the President, 4 days before the Web site opened up in October, said: easier to use than Amazon, cheaper than your cell phone; keep your doctor if you like your doctor—there was so much misleading of the American public—and then when he says stand and forcefully defend and be proud of this health care law.

I think it is very hard to defend what the President and the Democrats have forced down the throats of the American public, and it is very hard to be proud of the kind of abuse and waste in a system that—whatever the intentions—has proven to the American public to be something they do not want, that they want to have replaced with an opportunity to have access, affordability, choice, and quality. By adopting proposals in a step-by-step fashion that Republicans have been promoting—to deal with those sorts of things of access, affordability, choice, and quality—we can try to ultimately get the American public what they need and what they asked for in the beginning: the care they need from a doctor they choose at lower costs.

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

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF KEITH M. HARPER FOR THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR DURING HIS TENURE OF SERVICE AS UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE TO THE U.N. HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Mr. REID. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 633.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Keith M. Harper, of Maryland, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as United States Representative to the U.N. Human Rights Council.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Madam President, there is a cloture motion at the desk on this matter.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Keith M. Harper, of Maryland, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as United States Representative to the UN Human Rights Council.

Harry Reid, Robert Menendez, Patrick J. Leahy, Elizabeth Warren, Barbara A. Mikulski, Jack Reed, Richard Blumenthal, Carl Levin, Christopher Murphy, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Sheldon Whitehouse, Patty Murray, Thomas R. Carper, John D. Rockefeller IV, Jeff Merkley, Richard J. Durbin, Benjamin L. Cardin.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF SHARON Y. BOWEN TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 755.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Sharon Y. Bowen, of New York, to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission for a term expiring April 13, 2018.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Sharon Y. Bowen, of New York, to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

Harry Reid, Debbie Stabenow, Richard J. Durbin, Barbara Boxer, Michael F. Bennet, Benjamin L. Cardin, Ron Wyden, Joe Donnelly, Christopher A. Coons, Mark Begich, Tim Kaine, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Sherrod Brown, Patrick J. Leahy, Tom Harkin, Angus S. King, Jr., Amy Klobuchar.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF MARK G. MASTROIANNI TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 691.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Mark G. Mastroianni, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Mark G. Mastroianni, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Masssachusetts.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Al Franken, Barbara Boxer, Christopher A. Coons, Richard J. Durbin, Sherrod Brown, Richard Blumenthal, Carl Levin, Bill Nelson, Amy Klobuchar, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Elizabeth Warren, Sheldon Whitehouse, Mazie K. Hirono, Tom Harkin, Tom Udall.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF BRUCE HOWE HENDRICKS TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 692.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Bruce Howe Hendricks, of South Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. There is a cloture motion at the desk on file with the clerk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Bruce Howe Hendricks, of South Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Al Franken, Barbara Boxer, Christopher A. Coons, Richard J. Durbin, Sherrod Brown, Richard Blumenthal, Carl Levin, Bill Nelson, Amy Klobuchar, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Elizabeth Warren, Sheldon Whitehouse, Mazie K. Hirono, Tom Harkin, Tom Udall.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF TANYA S. CHUTKAN TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 733.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Tanya S. Chutkan, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Madam President, there is a cloture motion filed at the desk. I ask that it be reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Tanya S. Chutkan, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Al Franken, Barbara Boxer, Christopher A. Coons, Richard J. Durbin, Sherrod Brown, Richard Blumenthal, Carl Levin, Bill Nelson, Amy Klobuchar, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Elizabeth Warren, Sheldon Whitehouse, Mazie K. Hirono, Tom Harkin, Tom Udall.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF SYLVIA MATHEWS BURWELL TO BE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 798.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Sylvia Mathews Burwell, of West Virginia, to be Secretary of Health and Human Services.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. There is a cloture motion on file at the desk and I ask that it be reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Sylvia Mathews Burwell, of West Virginia, to be Secretary of Health and Human Services.

Harry Reid, Ron Wyden, Tom Harkin, Richard J. Durbin, Barbara Boxer, Michael F. Bennet, Debbie Stabenow, Benjamin L. Cardin, Mary Landrieu, Mark Begich, Joe Donnelly, Tim Kaine, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Sherrod Brown, Patrick J. Leahy, Tom Harkin, Angus S. King, Jr.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

RECOGNIZING REMOTE ACCESS MEDICAL

Mr. REID. Madam President, fans of the popular reality television series ''Wild Kingdom'' may recall watching Stan Brock wrestle giant anacondas in the Amazon and corral wildebeests in the Serengeti, but for the past three decades, he has been engaged in a very different kind of struggle. In 1985, he founded a nonprofit organization known as Remote Area Medical, RAM, with the stated goal of ''addressing the needless pain and suffering caused by the lack of healthcare in impoverished, underserved, and isolated areas.'' Since its inception, RAM has hosted 724 free medical events in which over 80,000 volunteers have delivered $75 million in free medical, dental and vision care. It is not uncommon for patients to travel hundreds of miles to attend one of these events or to sleep in their cars while they wait for the free clinics to open.

Last month, I had the opportunity to witness RAM in action when they held a 3-day medical event at Hug High School in Reno, NV. In the short time I was there, I saw hundreds of Nevadans filter through the clinic to receive much needed dental work, vaccinations, eye exams, free glasses, mental health screenings, and general medical work ups—all with short waits and at no cost to the patients. The patients attending the clinic were so grateful to finally receive a much needed x ray, pair of glasses, and many other services. I spoke with many of the volunteers—doctors, nurses, dentists—and they were all thrilled to be a part something so meaningful that fills a void for individuals who have no other way to access some of these critical services. A similar scene played out in Las Vegas earlier in the month, where RAM held a 2-day event at Bonanza High School. In total, the RAM team of 597 volunteers served 1,712 patients and provided almost one-half million dollars in care during their two expeditions in Nevada last month.

RAM was able to bring these events to Nevada because it is one of only a few States that allows licensed medical professionals from other States to volunteer at free medical services events. I have witnessed firsthand the value of these events—both for the patients they serve and for those volunteers who want to find a way to donate their professional expertise in a meaningful way. That is why I am convinced that we need Federal legislation that will allow medical practitioners to cross State lines to provide free volunteer care. Senator BOXER has been working to craft such legislation, and I look forward to supporting her in this effort.

Stan Brock's work has been exemplary. Through his efforts, hundreds of thousands of people in need of have received proper healthcare—some for the first time in their lives. My own appreciation for RAM was cemented as I personally witnessed this noble work. Watching Stan and his team work together to help so many unfortunate Nevadans was a moving experience for me. I thank Stan Brock, RAM, and all of the selfless volunteers for giving so much of themselves to those with so little.

VETERANS HEALTH CARE

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, I come to the floor today in recognition of the approaching Memorial Day holiday to express my deepest gratitude, respect, and appreciation for the men and women of our Armed Forces and for our veterans. In order to commemorate our vets, the first bill to be marked up and passed out of my Appropriations Committee was the Fiscal Year 2015 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies bill. I wanted to make sure that there is no question in anyone's mind that veterans are my No. 1 priority.

As the chairwoman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I have put money in the Federal checkbook to improve the veterans health care system so that wounded and disabled warriors get the care and benefits they need. I have worked to ensure veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, PTSD, or a traumatic brain injury, TBI, receive better diagnosis and treatment through the Defense Department and the VA.

In the bill that passed out of my committee today, we established even more checks on the VA by including an additional $5 million to investigate the wait time practices at all VA medical treatment facilities nationwide. Our committee must invoke even more oversight to ensure that the tragedy that occurred at the Phoenix, AZ VA hospital is not repeated again in other hospitals. The greatest power my committee has is holding the VA accountable by closing the purse strings of their budget. One way we are doing this is by restricting performance bonuses for medical directors, assistant directors, and senior executive services staff until after the inspector general completes its audit on wait times at nationwide veterans treatment facilities. We need to continue to ensure that the VA is being held accountable. That is why I, along with a number of my colleagues, sent a letter to President Obama demanding an investigation by the VA's IG to evaluate the secret lists being kept at the Phoenix VA hospital.

I have also led the charge to reduce the backlog in processing veterans' disability claims. I brought Secretary Shinseki to Baltimore to create a sense of urgency to end the backlog by 2015. I used my power as chairwoman of the Appropriations Committee to convene a hearing with the top brass in the military, VA, and members of the committee to identify challenges and get moving on solutions. I cut across agencies to break down smokestacks and developed a 10-point Checklist for Change enacted as part of the fiscal year 2014 Omnibus appropriations bill. This plan includes better funding, better technology, better training, and better oversight of the VA.

I believe we must keep the promises we have made to our veterans. We can do this by giving them the same quality of service they gave us and by providing them with the care they deserve.

We made a sacred commitment to honor those who served by giving them the benefits they have earned. I will continue to fight for better benefits and treatment for our vets. And I am committed to holding the VA accountable through the powers provided to me through the Appropriations Committee.

MEMORIAL DAY

Mr. COCHRAN. Madam President, on Memorial Day 2014, I will join a grateful nation in paying homage to the men and women of our Armed Forces

who have given their lives to defend this Nation.

The people of Mississippi are proud and supportive of those in military service. On Memorial Day, citizens all across our State will join other Americans to remember, honor, and say a prayer of thanksgiving for those who gave their lives in service to their country. We will also remember and comfort their families, who mourn the loss of loved ones. We will enjoy the fellowship of our friends and neighbors with whom we enjoy the liberty that has been so preciously guarded by the fallen.

The national day of commemoration that we observe today evolved from a practice first started in the aftermath of the Civil War. In April 1866, citizens of Columbus, MS, started what became Decoration Day, time set aside to decorate the graves of Confederate and Union soldiers alike. That tradition of honoring all those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice continues to this day. It is the right thing to do.

While we naturally look back to battles now consigned to history, we will also honor those brave men and women who, in more recent times, have died for their country. This Memorial Day 2014, my State will remember Army SPC Terry K.D. Gordon of Shubuta, MS, who lost his life in a helicopter accident in Now Bahar, Afghanistan, on December 18, 2013. We will mourn his loss and honor him for his courage, dedication and sacrifice.

This Memorial Day should also prompt us to recommit ourselves to meeting our obligations to the men and women who take up arms to protect this great Nation. The serious problems that surround the delivery of benefits and services we owe to our veterans are unacceptable. The Department of Veterans Affairs has an important and sacred mission to uphold the full faith and trust of our government's commitment to our veterans.

As I observe Memorial Day and honor those who have given their lives to their country, I will also be mindful of our commitment to protect and support veterans and their families.

SKI AREA RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITY ENHANCEMENT ACT

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam President, I wish to highlight an important milestone in our work in Congress. I speak of my legislation to create year-round, sustainable jobs in mountain communities around the country while expanding opportunities for Americans to enjoy the great outdoors through the expansion of summer recreational opportunities at ski areas. On April 17, 2014, the U.S. Forest Service issued its final directives for implementing my Ski Area Recreational Opportunity Act, a law that allows and encourages ski areas on national forests to offer new activities for all seasons, such as expanded hiking and mountain biking, Frisbee golf, climbing walls, mountain coasters, zip lines, ropes courses, special events, and other popular activities.

I am proud to have led this bipartisan effort, from my time in the House, where I first introduced the Ski Area Recreational Opportunity Enhancement Act, to here in the Senate, where we saw the president sign it into law in 2011. After its passage, I worked with stakeholders and the U.S. Forest Service to make sure that the law's implementation empowers site-specific decisions that are appropriate for ski areas and local communities. This allows for the greatest opportunity for success in achieving the bill's main goals: boosting rural economies and promoting outdoor recreation. I would like to thank my colleagues Senators FEINSTEIN, HELLER, and BARRASSO for working with me to ensure this would happen.

Ski areas across the country and especially in my home State of Colorado have embraced the new flexibility provided by the Ski Area Recreational Opportunity Enhancement Act. Since its passage, they have been proposing projects to create activities for all seasons. I encourage the U.S. Forest Service to quickly review these proposals and to reach the best decision for each local project and community. That includes allowing for public input as prescribed by the National Environmental Policy Act. The local U.S. Forest Service land managers have a strong record of successfully working with ski areas to manage these long-running partnerships and that record is one of the reasons I advocated for a flexible directive empowering local decisionmaking.

I want to thank the U.S. Forest Service for finalizing a directive that provides that flexibility.

The U.S. Forest Service estimates that expanded recreational opportunities at ski areas will increase summer visits to national forests by 600,000 people each year, create 600 full or part-time jobs and inject nearly $40 million into mountain communities. I think we all can agree these are substantial gains for rural economies and a testament to the importance of these ski areas to the recreation community and the American public at large.

I also would like to recognize the important support of our other cosponsors: Senators MURRAY, BENNET, RISCH, SHAHEEN, ENZI, CANTWELL, AYOTTE, SANDERS, REID, LEAHY, and STABENOW. It was a strong bipartisan effort and I know we are all eager to see projects get underway to benefit rural economies and the recreating public.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

COOKS FROM THE VALLEY

• Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I want to commend the extraordinary work of Cooks from the Valley, a volunteer organization dedicated to supporting our Nation's servicemembers, veterans and their families.

Cooks from the Valley was established in Bakersfield, CA, by local resident Tom Anton, to bring the taste of home cooking to military members stationed all over the world.

What first began with one person in Bakersfield has grown to a diverse group of service-minded volunteers from coast to coast bound by one common goal: to say thank you to the men and women who serve in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Our military members and their families have made tremendous sacrifices and they deserve nothing less than the full and enduring support of a grateful nation. As co-chair of the Senate Military Family Caucus, I want to express my deepest gratitude to everyone at Cooks from the Valley—Mr. Anton, the volunteers, and many community supporters for their steadfast support of our servicemembers, veterans, and their families.

These dedicated Americans generously volunteer their time and resources to travel to all corners of the globe, providing our servicemembers with a taste of home that has boosted the spirits and filled the stomachs of those who put their lives on the line each and every day in service to our Nation. Cooks from the Valley's unique way of giving back to our military men and women should be an inspiration to us all.

As Americans, we have an obligation to give back to those who give so much for us. For many years, Cooks from the Valley has worked to fulfill this responsibility and I know they will continue to make a difference in the lives of our military families for many years to come.•

MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH

• Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I wish to recognize our military servicemembers, their families, and all veterans who have sacrificed in the service of this great country. After a long winter, Americans are finally enjoying the outdoors and spending precious time with their loved ones this month. But we should always remember that we enjoy these freedoms because the Guard, Reserve, and Active members of the U.S. military remain diligent, ready and willing to serve and sacrifice.

We celebrate our 15th annual National Military Appreciation Month this year, thanks to the leadership of my colleague Senator MCCAIN, who sponsored legislation in 1999 that set aside an entire month to honor, remember, and appreciate the patriotism and dedication of the military and their families. Military Appreciation Month includes specific recognition of Loyalty Day on May 1, Victory in Europe Day on May 8, Military Spouse Appreciation Day on May 9, Armed Forces Day on May 17, and, most importantly, Memorial Day on May 26.

From the American Revolution to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, military men and women have always made

enormous sacrifices in order to defend our Nation. I am inspired by their patriotism, their courage, and their dedication to freedom. Military Appreciation Month also recognizes the more than 90 million Americans who have family members serving in the military. Military families are also making tremendous sacrifices on behalf of the American people, and they are equally deserving of recognition during National Military Appreciation Month.

Recent events have provided another reminder of the constant guard our brave servicemembers provide. Earlier this year, 24-year-old PO2 Mark Mayo of Hagerstown, MD, gave his life, without hesitation, to protect his fellow shipmate. As a civilian assaulted a fellow sailor and grabbed her gun, Petty Officer Mayo stepped into harm's way, shielded his shipmate, and died so that she could live. Petty Officer Mayo was laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery on April 25, 2014, and posthumously awarded The Navy and Marine Corps Medal, the highest noncombat decoration for heroism awarded by the U.S. Department of the Navy.

Petty Officer Mayo is just one example of the heroism of our servicemembers; heroism that has been displayed countless times, both at home and abroad, throughout our Nation's history.

Young military men and women represent the best of our country. They choose to serve our communities, fight for their fellow Americans and defend our liberties with the fullest measure of devotion. Similar to generations before them, they have committed themselves to the defense of our Constitution against all enemies. Their devotion to their fellow Americans makes our Nation exceptional.

Not all those who support our national defense have worn a uniform or have been called away to distant battlefields. World War II's ''Rosie the Riveter'' saying ''We can do it'' sounds an awful lot like today's young people saying ''Yes, we can.'' I urge my colleagues to keep this spirit of our ''Rosies'' in mind today as we commit ourselves to answering the challenges that face our Nation.

We are fortunate to have so many women still living in Maryland who evoke the spirit of Rosie the Riveter. Crena Anderson riveted airplanes in Hagerstown, MD, during World War II. Ruth Staples of Brunswick, MD, worked on the railroad in support of allied efforts during the war. Even today, Crena and Ruth are both actively helping their local communities create replicable projects that teach and preserve World War II-era history and advance positive roles that women can play in our changing world.

This Memorial Day should be a time when all Americans can reconnect with our history and core values by honoring those who gave their lives for the ideals we cherish. In addition to remembering the servicemembers who fought and died in our Nation's wars, I believe that we must also take care of the servicemembers and veterans who are still with us, especially when they return home. There are serious issues that need to be addressed in the military and veteran communities. Active-Duty military and veteran suicide rates are at record high, Veterans' Administration disability claims continue to face unacceptable delays, and many programs that help discharged servicemembers make the transition to civilian life are inadequate. It is unacceptable that many of our servicemembers, veterans, and their caregivers lack the health care they need after a decade of war. Too many of these men and women are suffering from not only visible injuries but invisible ones too. We must do better. In these challenging times, let us pledge to redouble our efforts to provide for our veterans, not just on this Memorial Day but every day.

Military Appreciation Month is a time we should hold close to our hearts. In our hectic daily lives, let us not forget why our country endures. Throughout this month we will see many American flags and flowers adorning the graves of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our Nation. We honor them and remember their families, who wear the Gold Star Pin, because they bear the greatest burden of sacrifice. I remember in particular the 114 Marylanders who have been killed in our most recent conflicts and am reminded that our freedom isn't free. The best way to honor their sacrifice is to ensure that we are unwavering in our support for those who return to us wounded, ill, and injured. Let us affirm our commitment to them today and every day.●

JASPER COUNTY, IOWA

● Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic development, make smart investments to expand opportunity, and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State. And it has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in Congress has supported these local efforts.

I have always believed in accountability for public officials, and this, my final year in the Senate, is an appropriate time to give an accounting of my work across four decades representing Iowa in Congress. I take pride in accomplishments that have been national in scope—for instance, passing the Americans with Disabilities Act and spearheading successful farm bills. But I take a very special pride in projects that have made a big difference in local communities across my State.

Today, I would like to give an accounting of my work with leaders and residents of Jasper County to build a legacy of a stronger local economy, better schools and educational opportunities, and a healthier, safer community.

Between 2001 and 2013, the creative leadership in your community has worked with me to secure funding in Jasper County worth over $3.2 million and successfully acquired financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than $22 million to the local economy.

Of course my favorite memory of working together has to be working to fund the Neal Smith Wildlife National Wildlife Refuge. Congressman SMITH's dedication to protecting Iowa's local wildlife, fragile ecosystems, and beautiful natural scenery was a legacy that was truly a privilege to carry on. This refuge is not just a state natural resource, but a national treasure. It is home to grazing buffalo herds, white-tailed deer, badgers and pheasants, and more than 200 types of native prairie flowers and grasses. The hundreds of thousands of Iowans who visit the refuge every year experience the beauty and fragility of our natural environment. I hope that as I worked to carry on Congressman SMITH's legacy in providing over $1.3 million since 2000 to the refuge, Iowans will help take up the mantle to continue to support this tremendous local resource.

Among the highlights: Main Street Iowa: One of the greatest challenges we face—in Iowa and all across America—is preserving the character and vitality of our small towns and rural communities. This isn't just about economics. It is also about maintaining our identity as Iowans. Main Street Iowa helps preserve Iowa's heart and soul by providing funds to revitalize downtown business districts. This program has allowed towns like Colfax to use that money to leverage other investments to jumpstart change and renewal. I am so pleased that Jasper County has earned $43,000 through this program. These grants build much more than buildings. They build up the spirit and morale of people in our small towns and local communities.

School grants: Every child in Iowa deserves to be educated in a classroom that is safe, accessible, and modern. That is why, for the past decade and a half, I have secured funding for the innovative Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program—better known among educators in Iowa as Harkin grants for public schools construction and renovation. Across 15 years, Harkin grants worth more than $132 million have helped school districts to fund a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools. In many cases, these Federal dollars have served as the needed incentive to leverage local public and private dollars, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect within a school district. Over the years, Jasper

County has received $618,741 in Harkin grants. Similarly, schools in Jasper County have received funds that I designated for Iowa Star Schools for technology totaling $132,888.

Disaster mitigation and prevention: In 1993, when historic floods ripped through Iowa, it became clear to me that the national emergency-response infrastructure was woefully inadequate to meet the needs of Iowans in flood-ravaged communities. I went to work dramatically expanding the Federal Emergency Management Agency's hazard mitigation program, which helps communities reduce the loss of life and property due to natural disasters and enables mitigation measures to be implemented during the immediate recovery period. Disaster relief means more than helping people and businesses get back on their feet after a disaster, it means doing our best to prevent the same predictable flood or other catastrophe from recurring in the future. The hazard mitigation program that I helped create in 1993 has provided critical support to Iowa communities impacted by the devastating floods of 2008. Jasper County has received over $72,000 to remediate and prevent widespread destruction from natural disasters.

Agricultural and rural development: Because I grew up in a small town in rural Iowa, I have always been a loyal friend and fierce advocate for family farmers and rural communities. I have been a member of the House or Senate Agriculture Committee for 40 years—including more than 10 years as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Across the decades, I have championed farm policies for Iowans that include effective farm income protection and commodity programs; strong, progressive conservation assistance for agricultural producers; renewable energy opportunities; and robust economic development in our rural communities. Since 1991, through various programs authorized through the farm bill, Jasper County has received more than $7.8 million from a variety of farm bill programs.

Keeping Iowa communities safe: I also firmly believe that our first responders need to be appropriately trained and equipped, able to respond to both local emergencies and to statewide challenges such as, for instance, the methamphetamine epidemic. Since 2001, Jasper County's fire departments have received over $1.2 million for firefighter safety and operations equipment.

Wellness and health care: Improving the health and wellness of all Americans has been something I have been passionate about for decades. That is why I fought to dramatically increase funding for disease prevention, innovative medical research, and a whole range of initiatives to improve the health of individuals and families not only at the doctor's office but also in our communities, schools, and workplaces. I am so proud that Americans have better access to clinical preventive services, nutritious food, smoke-free environments, safe places to engage in physical activity, and information to make healthy decisions for themselves and their families. These efforts not only save lives, they will also save money for generations to come thanks to the prevention of costly chronic diseases, which account for a whopping 75 percent of annual health care costs. I am pleased that Jasper County has recognized this important issue by securing $264,000 for community wellness activities.

Disability Rights: Growing up, I loved and admired my brother Frank, who was deaf. But I was deeply disturbed by the discrimination and obstacles he faced every day. That is why I have always been a passionate advocate for full equality for people with disabilities. As the primary author of the Americans with Disabilities Act, ADA, and the ADA Amendments Act, I have had four guiding goals for our fellow citizens with disabilities: equal opportunity, full participation, independent living and economic self-sufficiency. Nearly a quarter century since passage of the ADA, I see remarkable changes in communities everywhere I go in Iowa not just in curb cuts or closed captioned television, but in the full participation of people with disabilities in our society and economy, folks who at long last have the opportunity to contribute their talents and to be fully included. These changes have increased economic opportunities for all citizens of Jasper County, both those with and without disabilities. And they make us proud to be a part of a community and country that respects the worth and civil rights of all of our citizens.

This is at least a partial accounting of my work on behalf of Iowa, and specifically Jasper County, during my time in Congress. In every case, this work has been about partnerships, cooperation, and empowering folks at the State and local level, including in Jasper County, to fulfill their own dreams and initiatives. And, of course, this work is never complete. Even after I retire from the Senate, I have no intention of retiring from the fight for a better, fairer, richer Iowa. I will always be profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Iowa as their Senator.●

MARSHALL COUNTY, IOWA

● Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic development, make smart investments to expand opportunity, and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State. And it has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in Congress has supported these local efforts.

I have always believed in accountability for public officials, and this, my final year in the Senate, is an appropriate time to give an accounting of my work across four decades representing Iowa in Congress. I take pride in accomplishments that have been national in scope—for instance, passing the Americans with Disabilities Act and spearheading successful farm bills. But I take a very special pride in projects that have made a big difference in local communities across my State.

Today, I would like to give an accounting of my work with leaders and residents of Marshall County to build a legacy of a stronger local economy, better schools and educational opportunities, and a healthier, safer community.

Between 2001 and 2013, the creative leadership in your community has worked with me to secure funding in Marshall County worth over $19 million and successfully acquired financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than $55 million to the local economy.

Of course my favorite memories of working together have to include lead paint remediation, for which I have provided more than $4.1 million since 2001, providing over $2 million to increase availability of affordable housing, supporting local law enforcement efforts, and improving downtown buildings in Marshalltown and State Center through the Main Street Iowa program.

Among the highlights:

Investing in Iowa's economic development through targeted community projects: In central Iowa, we have worked together to grow the economy by making targeted investments in important economic development projects including improved roads and bridges, modernized sewer and water systems, and better housing options for residents of Marshall County. In many cases, I have secured Federal funding that has leveraged local investments and served as a catalyst for a whole ripple effect of positive, creative changes. For example, I have fought to secure over $15 million for Mechdyne, a Marshalltown company which is a world leader in 3D and virtual reality visualization technology, helping to create jobs and expand economic opportunities.

Main Street Iowa: One of the greatest challenges we face—in Iowa and all across America—is preserving the character and vitality of our small towns and rural communities. This isn't just about economics. It is also about maintaining our identity as Iowans. Main Street Iowa helps preserve Iowa's heart and soul by providing funds to revitalize downtown business districts. This program has allowed towns like State Center and Marshalltown to use that money to leverage other investments to jumpstart change and renewal. I am so pleased that Marshall County has earned $575,159 through this

program. These grants build much more than buildings. They build up the spirit and morale of people in our small towns and local communities.

School grants: Every child in Iowa deserves to be educated in a classroom that is safe, accessible, and modern. That is why, for the past decade and a half, I have secured funding for the innovative Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program—better known among educators in Iowa as Harkin grants for public schools construction and renovation. Across 15 years, Harkin grants worth more than $132 million have helped school districts to fund a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools. In many cases, these Federal dollars have served as the needed incentive to leverage local public and private dollars, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect within a school district. Over the years, Marshall County has received more than $4.9 million in Harkin grants. Similarly, schools in Marshall County have received funds that I designated for Iowa Star Schools for technology totaling $64,660.

Keeping Iowa communities safe: I also firmly believe that our first responders need to be appropriately trained and equipped, able to respond to both local emergencies and to statewide challenges such as, for instance, the methamphetamine epidemic. Since 2001, Marshall County's fire departments have received over $1.1 million for firefighter safety and operations equipment, and $841,737 in Byrne Justice Assistance Grants, as well as $200,000 for drug free communities through the Department of Justice.

Wellness and health care: Improving the health and wellness of all Americans has been something I have been passionate about for decades. That is why I fought to dramatically increase funding for disease prevention, innovative medical research, and a whole range of initiatives to improve the health of individuals and families not only at the doctor's office but also in our communities, schools, and workplaces. I am so proud that Americans have better access to clinical preventive services, nutritious food, smoke-free environments, safe places to engage in physical activity, and information to make healthy decisions for themselves and their families. These efforts not only save lives, they will also save money for generations to come thanks to the prevention of costly chronic diseases, which account for a whopping 75 percent of annual health care costs. I am pleased that Marshall County has recognized this important issue by securing over $61,000 in wellness grants.

Disability Rights: Growing up, I loved and admired my brother Frank, who was deaf. But I was deeply disturbed by the discrimination and obstacles he faced every day. That is why I have always been a passionate advocate for full equality for people with disabilities. As the primary author of the Americans with Disabilities Act, ADA, and the ADA Amendments Act, I have had four guiding goals for our fellow citizens with disabilities: equal opportunity, full participation, independent living and economic self-sufficiency. Nearly a quarter century since passage of the ADA, I see remarkable changes in communities everywhere I go in Iowa—not just in curb cuts or closed captioned television, but in the full participation of people with disabilities in our society and economy, folks who at long last have the opportunity to contribute their talents and to be fully included. These changes have increased economic opportunities for all citizens of Marshall County, both those with and without disabilities. And they make us proud to be a part of a community and country that respects the worth and civil rights of all of our citizens.

This is at least a partial accounting of my work on behalf of Iowa, and specifically Marshall County, during my time in Congress. In every case, this work has been about partnerships, cooperation, and empowering folks at the State and local level, including in Marshall County, to fulfill their own dreams and initiatives. And, of course, this work is never complete. Even after I retire from the Senate, I have no intention of retiring from the fight for a better, fairer, richer Iowa. I will always be profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Iowa as their Senator.●

LAS VEGAS-CLARK COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT

● Mr. HELLER. Madam President, today I wish to recognize and congratulate the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District for receiving the National Medal for Museum and Library Service, the highest community service honor a museum or library can earn. Nevada is proud to have one of its institutions dedicated to the education and betterment of the community be chosen for such a prestigious award.

In its 20th-anniversary year, the National Medal is celebrating institutions that have made a significant impact on individuals, families, and communities across the Nation. Nevada is honored to have the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District selected as one of only 10 institutions to receive this award. The library has long served as a home to community members looking to further their education and entertain themselves through the joys of reading. More recently, recognizing the growing needs within the community, the library has become a haven for those who need a retreat from their homes or as a destination for Internet that they cannot afford.

As Nevada's unemployment rate remains one of highest in the Nation and as our national economy continues to struggle, I recognize the unique role the Las Vegas-Clark County Library has played in working to address the needs of its local community by carefully crafting a strategic plan to address the unemployment problems in Nevada. By adding more computers so users could fill out job applications online and creating programs about managing stress and dealing with bankruptcy, the library is able to assist Nevadans during this tough time. While our economy continues to recover, vulnerable Nevadan's rely on a variety of resources to help them find employment, especially those provided by the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District.

The importance of libraries is exemplified through their community engagement, support for afterschool programs, and ability to act as learning tools for students. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the Las Vegas-Clark County District. As a father of four children who attended Nevada's public schools and the husband of a lifelong teacher, I understand the important role that libraries play in educating Nevada's students. Ensuring that America's youth are prepared to compete in the 21st century is critical for the future of our country. The State of Nevada is fortunate to be home to a library district that offers a large variety of assistance to the members of the community.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District and know that they serve as an example for the rest of the Silver State.●

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

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

At 12:38 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 4031. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the removal of Senior Executive Service employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs for performance, and for other purposes.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and

were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM–235. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Hawaii expressing support for the Troop Talent Act of 2013; to the Committee on Armed Services.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 18

Whereas, members of the United States Armed Forces are dedicated to protecting the many freedoms that we enjoy through discipline, hard work, and self-sacrifice; and

Whereas, for many veterans the transition from military to civilian life is often a difficult one, which is evident in the higher unemployment rates experienced by post September 11th veterans; a rate that is currently 9.4 percent, which is greater than the national average which is 6.7 percent; and

Whereas, even though many veterans leave the military with valuable skills and training, several obstacles such as injuries, lack of civilian work experience, and license and certification issues hamper a smooth transition from military to civilian life; and

Whereas, H.R. 1796, or the Troop Talent Act of 2013, was created to ensure that veterans and members of the Armed Forces are provided with the proper education and training to better assist them in obtaining civilian certifications and licenses, as well as for other purposes to assist veterans in adjusting to civilian life; and

Whereas, the Troop Talent Act of 2013 directs the Secretaries of the military departments, to the maximum extent practicable, to make information on civilian credentialing opportunities available to members of the Armed Forces beginning with, and at every stage of, their training for military occupational specialties in order to permit such members to:

(1) Evaluate the extent to which such training correlates with skills and training required for various civilian certifications and licenses; and

(2) Assess the suitability of such training for obtaining or pursuing such civilian certifications and licenses; and

Whereas, the Troop Talent Act of 2013 also requires the information be made available to members of the Armed Services to be consistent with the Transition Goals Plans Success Program; and

Whereas, the Troop Talent Act of 2013 also requires the inclusion of information on:

(1) The civilian occupational equivalents of military occupational specialties;

(2) Civilian license or certification requirements, including examination requirements; and

(3) The availability and opportunities for use of educational benefits available to members of the Armed Forces, as appropriate, corresponding training, or continuing education that leads to a certification exam in order to provide a pathway to credentialing opportunities; and

Whereas, the Troop Talent Act of 2013 requires the Secretaries of the military departments to make available to civilian credentialing agencies, specified information on the content of military training provided to members of the Armed Services; and

Whereas, the Troop Talent Act of 2013 allows members of the Armed Services or veterans in pursuit of a civilian certification or license to use educational assistance provided through the Department of Defense or the Department of Veterans Affairs only if the successful completion of a curriculum fully qualifies the student to take the appropriate examinations and be certified or licensed to meet any other academic conditions required for entry into that occupation or profession; and

Whereas, the Troop Talent Act of 2013 requires the military occupational specialties designated for a military skills to civilian credentialing pilot program under the National Defense. Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 to include those specialties relating to the military information technology workforce; and

Whereas, the Troop Talent Act of 2013 directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to reestablish the Professional Certification and Licensure Advisory Committee which was terminated on December 31, 2006, and provides the Committee with additional duties, including the development of:

(1) Guidance for audits of licensure and certification programs in order to ensure high-quality education to members of the Armed Services and veterans; and

(2) A plan to improve outreach to members of the Armed Services and veterans on the importance of licensing and certification and the availability of educational benefits: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2014, that this body supports the Troop Talent Act of 2013 along with its passage; and be it further

Resolved, That certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, and Hawaii's Congressional delegation.

POM–236. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii urging the United States Congress to adopt legislation to ease a transition to a new type of identity theft-resistant credit card; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 32

Whereas, credit card data theft is one of the fastest-growing crimes in the nation, increasing 50 percent from 2005 to 2010, according to a recent report from the United States Department of Justice; and

Whereas, credit card data theft is often included in the general definition of identity theft, a crime that occurs when a thief steals an individual's personal information and uses it without the individual's permission; and

Whereas, identity theft is a serious crime that can devastate an individual's finances, credit history, and reputation, and can take time, money, and patience to resolve; and

Whereas, the number of malicious programs written to steal an individual's personal information has grown exponentially from about 1,000,000 in 2007 to an estimated 130,000,000 in 2013; and

Whereas, identity theft is expected to surpass traditional theft as the leading form of property crime, and security analysts have reported that everyone should prepare to become an identity theft victim at some point; and

Whereas, most Americans have a greater chance of having their personal identity information stolen than being actually held up at gunpoint; and

Whereas, a company has recently introduced a new type of identity theft-resistant credit card that is designed to reduce the chances of consumers being hit with fraudulent credit card debt; and

Whereas, in designing this new type of credit card, the company has developed small, digital, internal components that will allow a consumer to enter a personal unlocking code that will generate a unique credit card number for every transaction, making the card more difficult to use by thieves if it is lost or stolen; and

Whereas, at least one major bank is testing this new type of credit card in a number of small pilot programs, and more lenders may adopt the technology in the near future: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2014, the Senate concurring, that the Congress of the United States, Hawaii financial institutions, and Hawaii businesses are urged to adopt legislation, policies, and procedures to use identity theft-resistant credit cards; and be it further

Resolved, That the Congress of the United States is urged to adopt legislation that would ease a transition to a new type of identity theft-resistant credit card; and be it further

Resolved, That Hawaii financial institutions and Hawaii businesses that offer credit cards are urged to use the new identity theft-resistant credit card technology to reduce the chances of consumers being victimized by identity thieves; and be it further

Resolved, That certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the members of Hawaii's congressional delegation, the President of the Hawaii Bankers Association, the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii, and the Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Retail Merchants of Hawaii.

POM–237. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urging the Congress of the United States to pass and the President of the United States to sign the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2013; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 663

Whereas, During the Vietnam Conflict, the United States military sprayed more than 19 million gallons of Agent Orange and other herbicides over Vietnam to reduce forest cover and crops used by the enemy; these herbicides contained dioxin, which has since been identified as carcinogenic and has been linked with a number of serious and disabling illnesses now affecting thousands of veterans; and

Whereas, The Congress of the United States passed the Agent Orange Act of 1991 to address the plight of veterans exposed to herbicides while serving in Vietnam; and

Whereas, The act amended Title 38 of the United States Code to presumptively recognize as service-connected, certain diseases among military personnel who served in the Vietnam Conflict between 1962 and 1975; and

Whereas, This presumption has provided access to appropriate disability compensation and medical care for Vietnam veterans diagnosed with such illnesses as Type II diabetes, Hodgkin's disease, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, chronic lymphocytic leukemia, multiple myeloma, prostate cancer, respiratory cancers and soft-tissue sarcomas; and

Whereas, Pursuant to a 2001 directive, the Department of Veterans Affairs policy has denied the presumption of a service connection for herbicide-related illnesses to Vietnam veterans who could not furnish written documentation that they had ''boots on the ground'' in-country, making it virtually impossible for countless United States Navy and Air Force veterans to pursue their claims for benefits; and

Whereas, Many who had landed on Vietnamese soil could not produce proof due to incomplete or missing military records, moreover, personnel who had served on ships in the ''Blue Water Navy'' in Vietnamese territorial waters were, in fact, exposed to dangerous airborne toxins, which not only drifted offshore but also washed into streams and

rivers draining into the South China Sea; and

Whereas, Warships positioned off the Vietnamese shore routinely distilled seawater to obtain potable water; and

Whereas, A 2002 Australian study found that the distillation process, rather than removing toxins, in fact, concentrated dioxin in water used for drinking, cooking and washing; and

Whereas, This study was conducted by the Australian Department of Veteran Affairs after it found that Vietnam veterans of the Royal Australian Navy had a higher rate of mortality from Agent Orange-associated diseases than did Vietnam veterans from other branches of the military; and

Whereas, When the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention studied specific cancers among Vietnam veterans, it found a higher risk of cancer among Navy veterans; and

Whereas, Agent Orange did not discriminate between soldiers on the ground and sailors on ships offshore, and legislation to recognize this tragic fact and restore eligibility for compensation and medical care to Navy and Air Force veterans who sacrificed their health for their country is critical; and

Whereas, When the Agent Orange Act passed in 1991 with no dissenting votes, Congressional leaders stressed the importance of responding to the health concerns of Vietnam veterans and ending the bitterness and anxiety that had surrounded the issue of herbicide exposure; and

Whereas, Congress should reaffirm the nation's commitment to the well-being of all of its veterans and direct the Department of Veterans Affairs to administer the Agent Orange Act under the presumption that herbicide exposure in Vietnam includes the country's inland waterways, offshore waters and airspace: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives respectfully urge the Congress and President of the United States to restore the presumption of a service connection for Agent Orange exposure for United States Navy and Air Force veterans who served on the inland waterways, territorial waters and in the airspace of Vietnam, Thailand, Laos and Cambodia; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of State of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania forward official copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States, and to all the members of the Pennsylvania delegation to the 113th Congress urging the members of the delegation to support and fund the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2013 and with the request that this resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

POM–238. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii urging the President of the United States and the United States Congress to support the authorization of the issuance of general obligation bonds for the construction of a long-term care facility for veterans contingent upon the receipt of federal funds; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 68

Whereas, Hawaii's acute shortage of long-term care beds has the potential to directly impact the growing number of our veterans who are reaching a point in their lives where long-term care may become necessary; and

Whereas, the shortage of long-term care facilities will be felt in communities across Hawaii; and

Whereas, veterans have stood up for America in times of need, thereby earning the highest degree of respect and support the nation is able to give; and

Whereas, the men and women who have served our country are owed a special duty; and

Whereas, veterans of the armed services deserve safety, comfort, and dignified care in their later years; and

Whereas, providing safe and reliable care falls squarely within our commitment as a state and a nation; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2014, the Senate concurring, that the President of the United States and the United States Congress are urged to support House Bill No. 2074, Regular Session of 2014, which authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds for the construction of a long-term care facility for veterans contingent upon the receipt of federal funds; and be it further

Resolved, That certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, and Speaker of the House of the United States House of Representatives.

POM–239. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Hawaii urging the President of the United States and the United States Congress to grant veterans benefits to Filipino veterans who fought in World War II; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 22

Whereas, during World War II, the Philippines was a United States commonwealth; and

Whereas, Filipino soldiers volunteered their services after being promised full veterans benefits to volunteer to fight for the United States against the potential threat of Japan; and

Whereas, thousands of Filipino men and women risked their lives against the invading Japanese forces and assisted our nation in its efforts to liberate the Philippines; and

Whereas, Filipino soldiers fought bravely beside American troops to restore liberty and democracy to their homeland; and

Whereas, exhibiting great courage at the battles of Corregidor and Bataan, Filipino soldiers contributed to the Allied victory that ended Word War II; and

Whereas, in 1941, by executive order, Filipinos who Volunteered for the Philippine Commonwealth Army and Philippine Scouts were made eligible for full United States veterans benefits for their active service during the war; and

Whereas, in 1946, by congressional act and upon the independence of the Philippines, these same Filipino veterans were denied eligibility for United States veterans benefits, such as health care, disability pensions, and burial expenses; and

Whereas, over the years, Congress has considered legislation to restore the benefits denied to Filipino veterans; and

Whereas, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 included a provision that called for the release of funding for lump sum payments to Filipino veterans in lieu of pensions; and

Whereas, restoring benefits denied to Filipino veterans and fulfilling and expediting any claims that are still pending honors those Filipino veterans who served our nation so courageously; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2014, that the President of the United States and the United States Congress are urged to grant veterans benefits to Filipino veterans who fought in World War II but were subsequently denied the benefits to which they were entitled; and be it further

Resolved, That providing these benefits does not correct the injustice and discrimination done over 60 years ago, but is a small step in making reparations; and be it further

Resolved, That certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, Hawaii's Congressional delegation, Secretary of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, Director of the Hawaii Office of Veterans Services, President of the Republic of the Philippines, and Philippine Consul General in Hawaii.

POM–240. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Hawaii urging the United States Congress to restore the presumption of a service connection for Agent Orange exposure to the United States veterans who served in the waters defined by the Combat Zone and in the airspace over the Combat Zone in Vietnam; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 19

Whereas, during the Vietnam War, the United States military sprayed 22,000,000 gallons of Agent Orange and other herbicides over Vietnam to reduce forest cover and crops used by the enemy; and

Whereas, these herbicides contained dioxin, which has since been identified as carcinogenic and has been linked with a number of serious and disabling illnesses affecting thousands of veterans; and

Whereas, the United States Congress passed the Agent Orange Act of 1991 to address the plight of veterans exposed to herbicides while serving the Republic of Vietnam; and

Whereas, the Agent Orange Act of 1991 amended Title 38 of the United States Code to presumptively recognize as service-connected certain diseases among military personnel who served in Vietnam between 1962 and 1975; and

Whereas, this presumption has provided access to appropriate disability compensation and medical care for Vietnam veterans diagnosed with illnesses, such as Type II diabetes, Hodgkin's disease, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, prostate cancer, Parkinson's disease, multiple myeloma, peripheral neuropathy, AL Amyloidosis respiratory cancers, soft-tissue sarcomas, and other illnesses yet to be identified; and

Whereas, pursuant to a directive in 2001, it has been the policy of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to deny the presumption of a service connection for herbicide-related illnesses to Vietnam veterans who cannot furnish written documentation that they had ''boots on the ground'' in-country, making it virtually impossible for countless United States Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force veterans to pursue their claims for benefits; and

Whereas, personnel who served on ships in the ''Blue Water Navy'' in Vietnamese territorial waters were, in fact, exposed to dangerous airborne toxins, which not only drifted offshore but also washed into streams and rivers draining into the South China Sea; and

Whereas, Agent Orange has been verified, through various studies and reports, as a wide-spreading chemical that was able to reach United States Navy ships through the air and waterborne distribution routes; and

Whereas, warships positioned off the Vietnamese shore routinely distilled seawater to obtain potable water; and

Whereas, an Australian study in 2002 found that the distillation process, instead of removing toxins, actually concentrated dioxin

in water used for drinking, cooking, and washing; and

Whereas, this study was conducted by the Australian Department of Veterans Affairs after it found that Vietnam veterans of the Royal Australian Navy suffered from a higher rate of mortality from Agent Orange-associated diseases than did Vietnam veterans from other branches of the military; and

Whereas, when the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention studied specific cancers among Vietnam veterans, it found a higher risk of cancer among United States Navy veterans; and

Whereas, herbicides containing tetrachlorodibenzodioxin (TCDD), a contaminant in Agent Orange, did not discriminate between soldiers on the ground and sailors on ships offshore; and

Whereas, more than 30 veterans' service organizations support the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2013 (H.R. 543); and

Whereas, by not passing H.R. 543, a precedent could be set to selectively provide certain categories of veterans with injury-related medical care while denying such care to other categories of veterans, without any financial, scientific, or consistent reasoning; and

Whereas, when the Agent Orange Act passed in 1991 with no dissenting votes, congressional leaders stressed the importance of responding to the health concerns of Vietnam veterans and ending the bitterness and anxiety that had surrounded the issue of herbicide exposure; and

Whereas, the federal government has also demonstrated its awareness of the hazards of Agent Orange exposure through its involvement in the identification, containment, and mitigation of dioxin ''hot spots'' in Vietnam; and

Whereas, the United States Congress should reaffirm the nation's commitment to the well-being of all of its veterans and direct the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to administer the Agent Orange Act under the presumption that herbicide exposure in the Republic of Vietnam includes the country's inland waterways, offshore waters, and airspace, encompassing the entire Combat Zone: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2014, that the United States Congress is respectfully urged to restore the presumption of a service connection for Agent Orange exposure to United States veterans who served in the waters defined by the Combat Zone and in the airspace over the Combat Zone in Vietnam; and be it further

Resolved, That the United States Congress is respectfully urged to enter this Resolution into the Congressional Record as an official memorial to the Congress; and be it further

Resolved, That certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of Hawaii's Congressional delegation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Ms. MIKULSKI, from the Committee on Appropriations:

Special Report entitled ''Allocation to Subcommittees of Budget Totals for Fiscal Year 2015'' (Rept. No. 113–163).

By Mr. PRYOR, from the Committee on Appropriations, without amendment:

S. 2389. An original bill making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113–164).

By Ms. LANDRIEU, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 37. A bill to sustain the economic development and recreational use of National Forest System land and other public land in the State of Montana, to add certain land to the National Wilderness Preservation System, to release certain wilderness study areas, to designate new areas for recreation, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113–165).

S. 258. A bill to amend the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to improve the management of grazing leases and permits, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113–166).

S. 715. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to use designated funding to pay for construction of authorized rural water projects, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113–167).

By Ms. LANDRIEU, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment:

S. 782. A bill to amend Public Law 101–377 to revise the boundaries of the Gettysburg National Military Park to include the Gettysburg Train Station, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113–168).

By Ms. LANDRIEU, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, without amendment:

S. 995. A bill to authorize the National Desert Storm Memorial Association to establish the National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial as a commemorative work in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113–169).

S. 1252. A bill to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate segments of the Missisquoi River and the Trout River in the State of Vermont, as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (Rept. No. 113–170).

By Ms. LANDRIEU, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment and an amendment to the title:

S. 1341. A bill to modify the Forest Service Recreation Residence Program as the program applies to units of the National Forest System derived from the public domain by implementing a simple, equitable, and predictable procedure for determining cabin user fees, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113–171).

By Ms. LANDRIEU, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment:

H.R. 1033. A bill to authorize the acquisition and protection of nationally significant battlefields and associated sites of the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 under the American Battlefield Protection Program (Rept. No. 113–172).

By Ms. LANDRIEU, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, without amendment:

H.R. 2337. A bill to provide for the conveyance of the Forest Service Lake Hill Administrative Site in Summit County, Colorado (Rept. No. 113–173).

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, from the Committee on Appropriations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

H.R. 4486. A bill making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113–174).

By Mr. MENENDEZ, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with amendments:

S. 2142. A bill to impose targeted sanctions on persons responsible for violations of human rights of antigovernment protesters in Venezuela, to strengthen civil society in Venezuela, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113–175).

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. HELLER (for himself and Mr. TESTER):

S. 2381. A bill to clarify that any private flood insurance policy accepted by a State shall satisfy the mandatory purchase requirement under the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. MERKLEY:

S. 2382. A bill to establish the Consumer Price Index for Elderly Consumers for purposes of determining cost-of-living increases under the Social Security Act, and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to apply payroll taxes to remuneration and earnings from self-employment up to the contribution and benefit base and to remuneration in excess of $250,000, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ALEXANDER:

S. 2383. A bill to direct the Office of the Actuary of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and the Comptroller General of the United States to study the impact of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act on small businesses; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LEVIN (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, and Mr. COBURN):

S. 2384. A bill to require the President to develop a watch list and a priority watch list of foreign countries that engage in economic or industrial espionage in cyberspace with respect to United States trade secrets or proprietary information, to provide for the imposition of sanctions with respect to foreign persons that knowingly benefit from such espionage, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. HARKIN (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 2385. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 and the Truth in Lending Act to provide for disclosure and codes of conduct with respect to consumer financial products or services and institutions of higher education; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mr. DONNELLY):

S. 2386. A bill to establish a grant program to help State and local law enforcement agencies reduce the risk of injury and death relating to the wandering characteristics of some children with autism and other disabilities; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WALSH:

S. 2387. A bill to amend the Claims Resolution Act of 2010 to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to contract with eligible Indian tribes to manage land buy-back programs, to require that certain amounts be deposited into interest bearing accounts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, and Mr. HELLER):

S. 2388. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the depreciation recovery period for energy-efficient cool roof systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PRYOR:

S. 2389. An original bill making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development,

Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Appropriations; placed on the calendar.

By Ms. HEITKAMP (for herself and Mr. KAINE):

S. 2390. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to create a tax credit for foster families; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MURPHY:

S. 2391. A bill to amend chapter 83 of title 41, United States Code (popularly referred to as the Buy American Act) and certain other laws with respect to certain waivers under those laws, to provide greater transparency regarding exceptions to domestic sourcing requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. WALSH:

S. 2392. A bill to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain segments of East Rosebud Creek in Carbon County, Montana, as components of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. PRYOR (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 2393. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the protection and enforcement of employment and reemployment rights of members of the uniformed services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. ENZI (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. HATCH, Mr. RISCH, Mr. LEE, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Mr. CRAPO):

S. 2394. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to provide certain Western States assistance in the development of statewide conservation and management plans for the protection and recovery of sage grouse species, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 2395. A bill to repeal the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. PRYOR (for himself, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. JOHANNS, and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 2396. A bill to establish the veterans' business outreach center program, to improve the programs for veterans of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 2397. A bill to increase the rates of pay under the General Schedule and other statutory pay systems and for prevailing rate employees by 3.3 percent, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. NELSON):

S. 2398. A bill to amend a provision of title 49, United States Code, relating to motor vehicle safety civil penalties; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BEGICH (for himself, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. TESTER, Mr. WALSH, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, and Ms. HEITKAMP):

S. 2399. A bill to safeguard the voting rights of Native American and Alaska Native voters and to provide the resources and oversight necessary to ensure equal access to the electoral process; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, and Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota):

S. 2400. A bill to provide for improvement of field emergency medical services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. MORAN, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WALSH, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mrs. MCCASKILL):

S. 2401. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish the Office of the Medical Inspector within the Office of the Under Secretary for Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. PRYOR, and Mr. BEGICH):

S. 2402. A bill to amend the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to address the need to increase on-the-job training and apprenticeship opportunities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. PRYOR, and Mr. BEGICH):

S. 2403. A bill to ensure that programs of training services under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 make better use of participants' prior learning so as to better assist the participants in obtaining degrees and other recognized postsecondary credentials, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE:

S. 2404. A bill to make permanent the extended period of protections for members of uniformed services relating to mortgages, mortgage foreclosure, and eviction, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. KIRK, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. ISAKSON):

S. 2405. A bill to amend title XII of the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize certain trauma care programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. REED:

S. 2406. A bill to amend title XII of the Public Health Service Act to expand the definition of trauma to include thermal, electrical, chemical, radioactive, and other extrinsic agents; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. MURRAY:

S. 2407. A bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 by authorizing the United States Agency for International Development to continue supporting the development of technologies for global health under the Health Technologies Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI:

S. 2408. A bill to authorize the exploration, leasing, development, and production of oil and gas in and from the western portion of the Coastal Plain of the State of Alaska without surface occupancy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI:

S. 2409. A bill to authorize the exploration, leasing, development, production, and economically feasible and prudent transportation of oil and gas in and from the Coastal Plain in Alaska; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

S.J. Res. 36. A joint resolution relating to the approval and implementation of the proposed agreement for nuclear cooperation between the United States and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. NELSON (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. Res. 455. A resolution designating May 2014 as ''Older Americans Month''; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. HAGAN, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. JOHANNS, Mr. KAINE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mrs. BOXER):

S. Res. 456. A resolution recognizing National Foster Care Month as an opportunity to raise awareness about the challenges of children in the foster care system, and encouraging Congress to implement policy to improve the lives of children in the foster care system; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. VITTER, Mr. CARPER, and Mr. BARRASSO):

S. Res. 457. A resolution designating the week of May 18 through May 24, 2014, as ''National Public Works Week''; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. KIRK, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. NELSON, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. Res. 458. A resolution recognizing May as Jewish American Heritage Month and honoring Holocaust survivors and their contributions to the United States of America; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. CHAMBLISS):

S. Res. 459. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate with respect to childhood stroke and recognizing May 2014 as ''National Pediatric Stroke Awareness Month''; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. REID, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. BROWN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. HELLER, Mr. KIRK, Ms. CANTWELL, and Mr. WARNER):

S. Res. 460. A resolution recognizing the significance of May 2014 as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month as an important time to celebrate the significant contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to the history of the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. HARKIN, and Mr. BEGICH):

S. Res. 461. A resolution honoring James L. Oberstar as a remarkable public servant who served in Congress with extraordinary dedication and purpose; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. Res. 462. A resolution recognizing the Khmer and Lao/Hmong Freedom Fighters of Cambodia and Laos for supporting and defending the United States Armed Forces during the conflict in Southeast Asia and for their continued support and defense of the United States; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. Res. 463. A resolution honoring the life, accomplishments, and legacy of Billy Frank, Jr, and expressing condolences on his passing; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND:

S. Con. Res. 36. A concurrent resolution permitting the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the next of kin or personal representative of Raoul Wallenberg; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 9

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 9, a bill to strengthen our Nation's electoral system by ensuring clean and fair elections.

S. 163

At the request of Mr. JOHANNS, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 163, a bill to prohibit any regulation regarding carbon dioxide or other greenhouse gas emissions reduction in the United States until China, India, and Russia implement similar reductions.

S. 313

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 313, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the tax treatment of ABLE accounts established under State programs for the care of family members with disabilities, and for other purposes.

S. 323

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 323, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for extended months of Medicare coverage of immunosuppressive drugs for kidney transplant patients and other renal dialysis provisions.

S. 462

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 462, a bill to enhance the strategic partnership between the United States and Israel.

S. 482

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 482, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide protections for consumers against excessive, unjustified, or unfairly discriminatory increases in premium rates.

S. 484

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 484, a bill to amend the Toxic Substances Control Act relating to lead-based paint renovation and remodeling activities.

S. 526

At the request of Mr. BROWN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 526, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the special rule for contributions of qualified conservation contributions, and for other purposes.

S. 553

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 553, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for an exclusion for assistance provided to participants in certain veterinary student loan repayment or forgiveness programs.

S. 635

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 635, a bill to amend the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act to provide an exception to the annual written privacy notice requirement.

S. 654

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 654, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for collegiate housing and infrastructure grants.

S. 714

At the request of Mr. JOHANNS, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 714, a bill to impose certain limitations on consent decrees and settlement agreements by agencies that require the agencies to take regulatory action in accordance with the terms thereof, and for other purposes.

S. 769

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 769, a bill to designate as wilderness certain Federal portions of the red rock canyons of the Colorado Plateau and the Great Basin Deserts in the State of Utah for the benefit of present and future generations of people in the United States.

S. 865

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 865, a bill to provide for the establishment of a Commission to Accelerate the End of Breast Cancer.

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 865, supra.

S. 961

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 961, a bill to improve access to emergency medical services, and for other purposes.

S. 1040

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1040, a bill to provide for the award of a gold medal on behalf of Congress to Jack Nicklaus, in recognition of his service to the Nation in promoting excellence, good sportsmanship, and philanthropy.

S. 1174

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 1174, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the 65th Infantry Regiment, known as the Borinqueneers.

S. 1324

At the request of Mr. JOHANNS, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1324, a bill to prohibit any regulations promulgated pursuant to a presidential memorandum relating to power sector carbon pollution standards from taking effect.

S. 1363

At the request of Mr. JOHANNS, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1363, a bill to protect consumers by prohibiting the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency from promulgating as final certain energy-related rules that are estimated to cost more than $1,000,000,000 and will cause significant adverse effects to the economy.

S. 1622

At the request of Ms. HEITKAMP, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1622, a bill to establish the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children, and for other purposes.

S. 1690

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1690, a bill to reauthorize the Second Chance Act of 2007.

S. 1716

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) were added as cosponsors of S. 1716, a bill to facilitate efficient investments and financing of infrastructure projects and new long-term job creation through the establishment of an Infrastructure Financing Authority, and for other purposes.

S. 1743

At the request of Mr. JOHANNS, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1743, a bill to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to recognize the authority of States to regulate oil and gas operations and promote American energy security, development, and job creation, and for other purposes.

S. 1744

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1744, a bill to strengthen the accountability of individuals involved in misconduct affecting the integrity of background investigations, to update guidelines for security clearances, and for other purposes.

S. 1820

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) and the Senator

from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1820, a bill to prohibit the use of Federal funds for the costs of official portraits of Members of Congress, heads of executive agencies, and heads of agencies and offices of the legislative branch.

S. 1909

At the request of Mr. SCOTT, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 1909, a bill to expand opportunity through greater choice in education, and for other purposes.

S. 1948

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1948, a bill to promote the academic achievement of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian children with the establishment of a Native American language grant program.

S. 1960

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1960, a bill to require rulemaking by the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to address considerations in evaluating the need for public and individual disaster assistance, and for other purposes.

S. 1988

At the request of Mr. JOHANNS, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1988, a bill to allow States to waive regulations promulgated under the Clean Air Act relating to electric generating units under certain circumstances.

S. 2013

At the request of Mr. NELSON, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2013, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the removal of Senior Executive Service employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs for performance, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) were added as cosponsors of S. 2013, supra.

S. 2060

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2060, a bill to direct the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board to develop accessibility guidelines for electronic instructional materials and related information technologies in institutions of higher education, and for other purposes.

S. 2132

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2132, a bill to amend the Indian Tribal Energy Development and Self-Determination Act of 2005, and for other purposes.

S. 2156

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2156, a bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to confirm the scope of the authority of the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to deny or restrict the use of defined areas as disposal sites.

S. 2176

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2176, a bill to revise reporting requirements under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to preserve the privacy of individuals, and for other purposes.

S. 2182

At the request of Mr. WALSH, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2182, a bill to expand and improve care provided to veterans and members of the Armed Forces with mental health disorders or at risk of suicide, to review the terms or characterization of the discharge or separation of certain individuals from the Armed Forces, to require a pilot program on loan repayment for psychiatrists who agree to serve in the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 2198

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2198, a bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to take actions to provide additional water supplies to the State of California due to drought, and for other purposes.

S. 2231

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2231, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide an individual with a mental health assessment before the individual enlists in the Armed Forces or is commissioned as an officer in the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S. 2243

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2243, a bill to expand eligibility for the program of comprehensive assistance for family caregivers of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to expand benefits available to participants under such program, to enhance special compensation for members of the uniformed services who require assistance in everyday life, and for other purposes.

S. 2244

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2244, a bill to extend the termination date of the Terrorism Insurance Program established under the Terrorism Insurance Act of 2002, and for other purposes.

S. 2270

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) were added as cosponsors of S. 2270, a bill to clarify the application of certain leverage and risk-based requirements under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.

At the request of Mr. JOHANNS, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2270, supra.

S. 2276

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2276, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to improve access to mental health services under the TRICARE program.

S. 2295

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2295, a bill to establish the National Commission on the Future of the Army, and for other purposes.

S. 2297

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2297, a bill to make demonstration grants to eligible local educational agencies or consortia of eligible local educational agencies for the purpose of reducing the student-to-school nurse ratio in public elementary schools and secondary schools.

S. 2302

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) were withdrawn as cosponsors of S. 2302, a bill to provide for a 1-year extension of the Afghan Special Immigrant Visa Program, and for other purposes.

S. 2307

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2307, a bill to prevent international violence against women, and for other purposes.

S. 2329

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK), the Senator from Missouri (Mr.

BLUNT), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2329, a bill to prevent Hezbollah from gaining access to international financial and other institutions, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. JOHANNS, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2329, supra.

S. 2355

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2355, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude certain compensation received by public safety officers and their dependents from gross income.

S. 2362

At the request of Mr. JOHANNS, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2362, a bill to prohibit the payment of performance awards in fiscal year 2015 to employees in the Veterans Health Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 2363

At the request of Mr. JOHANNS, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2363, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mrs. HAGAN, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) were added as cosponsors of S. 2363, supra.

S. 2373

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2373, a bill to authorize the appropriation of funds to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for conducting or supporting research on firearms safety or gun violence prevention.

S. 2377

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2377, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude certain compensation received by public safety officers and their dependents from gross income.

S. RES. 218

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 218, a resolution honoring the legacy of A. Philip Randolph and saluting his efforts on behalf of the people of the United States to form ''a more perfect union''.

S. RES. 453

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK), the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 453, a resolution condemning the death sentence against Meriam Yahia Ibrahim Ishag, a Sudanese Christian woman accused of apostasy.

At the request of Mr. JOHANNS, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 453, supra.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. LEVIN (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, and Mr. COBURN):

S. 2384. A bill to require the President to develop a watch list and a priority watch list of foreign countries that engage in economic or industrial espionage in cyberspace with respect to United States trade secrets or proprietary information, to provide for the imposition of sanctions with respect to foreign persons that knowingly benefit from such espionage, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I am joined today by Senators MCCAIN, ROCKEFELLER and COBURN in introducing a bill to respond to overwhelming and indisputable evidence of large scale cyber intrusions by the Government of China into the computer networks of private U.S. companies for the purpose of stealing valuable intellectual property and proprietary information. Such illegal and damaging behavior demands strong and immediate action.

American companies invest hundreds of billions of dollars every year in research and development. The innovation that results from those investments drives the growth of American companies and the U.S. economy. Unfortunately, our companies are having their intellectual property stolen right out from underneath them through cyberspace. According to a 2013 Center for Strategic and International Studies study, cyber theft costs American companies $100 billion annually—a staggering amount that threatens to undermine America's global competitiveness.

General Keith B. Alexander, former head of the National Security Agency and U.S. Cyber Command, has called the cyber theft of U.S. intellectual property ''the greatest transfer of wealth in history.''

Monday's Department of Justice indictment of 5 Chinese military officials for computer hacking, economic espionage and other offenses directed at 6 American companies confirms what earlier U.S. Government reports have documented: the culprits of cyber theft are frequently foreign governments and China is the worst offender. The indictment alleges that the defendants, members of China's People's Liberation Army, conspired to hack into the computers of U.S. companies to steal information useful to those American companies' Chinese competitors, including state-owned enterprises.

The indictments demonstrate the administration's willingness to take on cybercrime through the aggressive use of the criminal justice system. The legislation we are introducing today, a revised version of a bill we introduced last year, gives our Government another tool to impose costs on those who steal and profit from the cyber theft of American technology, trade secrets and proprietary information.

Our bill would authorize the President to direct the Treasury Department to freeze the assets of any foreign person or company, including a state owned enterprise, determined to have benefitted from the theft of U.S. technology or proprietary information stolen in cyberspace.

The Deter Cyber Theft Act would also require the Director of National Intelligence to compile an annual report on foreign economic and industrial espionage that includes: a list of foreign countries that engage in economic or industrial espionage in cyberspace against U.S. firms or individuals, including a priority watch list of the worst offenders; a list of U.S. technologies or proprietary information targeted by such espionage, and, to the extent possible, a list of such information that has been stolen; a list of items manufactured or produced or services or services provided using such stolen technologies or proprietary information; a list of foreign companies, including state-owned firms, that benefit from such theft; details of the espionage activities of foreign countries; and actions taken by the DNI and other Federal agencies to combat industrial or economic espionage in cyberspace.

As Dennis C. Blair, former director of national intelligence and co-chair of the IP Commission report has said, ''Jawboning alone won't work. Something has to change China's calculus.'' We need to call out those who are responsible for cyber theft and empower the President to hit the thieves where it hurts most—in their wallets.

If foreign governments, like the Chinese government, want to continue to deny their involvement in cyber theft despite the proof, that is one thing. We can't stop the denials. But we aren't without remedies. We can make sure that the companies that benefit from cyber theft, including state-owned companies, pay the price. Blocking these companies from doing business in the United States will send the message that we have had enough.

We worked closely with the administration in developing this bill. I believe it is an important complement to their recent aggressive efforts to respond to economic espionage by members of the Chinese military.

In light of the Snowden leaks, some have charged that it is inconsistent of the U.S. to criticize China's campaign to steal our intellectual property

through cyberspace. Let's be clear. Attempts to equate China's actions and our own are false. The United States economy is built on the hard work and innovation of American entrepreneurs who are free to think for themselves, develop new products and deliver them to the world. China's actions, on the other hand, reveal a country that is satisfied with theft as a means of economic growth while ironically, suppressing the freedoms that encourage new ideas and innovation. The Snowden revelations are about espionage; the United States does not steal intellectual property for economic gain.

I urge the speedy enactment of the Deter Cyber Theft Act.

By Ms. HEITKAMP (for herself and Mr. KAINE):

S. 2390. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to create a tax credit for foster families; to the Committee on Finance.

Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the important issue of foster care and the need to recruit, retain and support foster families. What better time than during National Foster Care Month. Foster parents make a significant and meaningful difference in the lives of so many vulnerable children by opening their hearts and homes. But we continue to struggle to recruit and retain enough foster families to ensure each child is placed in a family-like setting. This is particularly true for Native American kids who are in foster care at rates dramatically higher than others.

Caring for a child in foster care can be more expensive than caring for one's own biological children. Children placed into foster care often have experienced significant emotional and physical trauma and have higher incidences of medical and behavioral health issues, resulting in additional costs to parents. Unfortunately, too many caring foster parents struggle financially because Federal and State programs that reimburse parents for a child's daily living costs do not provide for the real cost of caring for the child. A 2007 study of State foster care programs, conducted by the University of Maryland School of Social Work, Children's Rights, and the National Foster Parent Association, found that current foster care rates would have to increase on average 36 percent nationwide to provide for basic care.

A 2002 report by the Department of Health and Human Services' Inspector General found that foster parents' expenses often exceed foster care reimbursement rates, leading foster parents to pay out-of-pocket to meet foster children's basic needs. Some benefits already exist in the current tax code to support these families, but few are aware of their existence or utilize them.

Today I am introducing the Foster Care Tax Credit Act to provide additional tax relief for foster families to help cover the actual costs of caring for a foster child. This legislation also requests additional outreach and education by the Department of Health and Human Services to better equip State and Tribal foster agencies and foster families to take advantage of all tax benefits available. I thank my colleague, Senator KAINE, for joining me in this effort.

As we continue working towards the goals of improving child welfare, I hope more of my colleagues will join me in seeking to provide additional support for families caring for foster children.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. KIRK, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. ISAKSON):

S. 2405. A bill to amend title XII of the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize certain trauma care programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today I am pleased to introduce the Trauma Systems and Regionalization of Emergency Care Reauthorization Act along with Senators KIRK, MURRAY, and ISAKSON, and also the Improving Trauma Care Act, which includes burn injuries in the definition of trauma.

These two bills, S. 2405 and S. 2406, build on my previous efforts to improve trauma care, which is an essential component of our care system. Timely and effective trauma care is critical to ensuring lifesaving interventions for those who have serious unintentional injuries. Such injuries are the leading cause of death for children and adults under 44, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle toward expeditious passage of these bills.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI:

S. 2408. A bill to authorize the exploration, leasing, development, and production of oil and gas in and from the western portion of the Coastal Plain of the State of Alaska without surface occupancy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce two separate bills to open a small portion of the Arctic coastal plain, in my home State of Alaska, to oil and gas development. I am introducing these bills because new production in northern Alaska is vital to my State's future and global energy security.

The 1.5 million acres of the Arctic coastal plain that lie within the nonwilderness portion of the 19 million acre Arctic National Wildlife Refuge are North America's greatest prospect for conventional onshore production. The U.S. Geological Survey continues to estimate that this part of the coastal plain has a mean likelihood of containing 10.4 billion barrels of oil and 8.6 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, as well as a reasonable chance of economically producing 16 billion barrels of oil. If produced at a rate of 1 million barrels per day, that supply could last for more than 40 years—bringing us jobs, revenues, and security in every one of them.

Today, Alaska supplies about 7 percent of U.S. crude oil. This is a 4 percent decline since I last introduced similar bills in 2011. It is an even more substantial loss compared to what we have provided in past decades, and what we could be providing today. Importantly, despite the Federal Government owning almost 70 percent of the lands in Alaska, almost all of our oil production is from State lands. The only production on Federal lands is from the Northstar project, a small man-made island that straddles state and federal waters in the Beaufort Sea.

For more than 30 years, my State has successfully balanced resource development with environmental protection. Alaskans have proven, over and over again, that these endeavors are not mutually exclusive, and with advances in technology, the footprint of development projects is only getting smaller. Yet at the Federal level, there is an astonishing refusal to acknowledge that record.

As a result, production on the North Slope continues to decline by about 6 percent annually. With new exploration and development projects on Federal lands blocked or delayed at every turn, Alaska faces a tipping point. Declining production is now threatening the continued operation of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System. A closure of TAPS would shut down all northern Alaska oil production, devastating Alaska's economy, causing global oil prices to rise, and deepening our dependence on unstable petrostates throughout the world. Exploration and development in the Arctic offshore and National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska are moving forward, but these resources will not be developed without a viable way to transport them to market.

The bills I introduce today, S. 2408 and S. 2409, would disturb no more than 2,000 acres of the vast coastal plain, and one bill would not allow surface occupancy of the coastal plain, only directional drilling from outside the refuge to access the oil and gas resources. To put this in perspective, 2,000 acres is less than the size of the local Dulles Airport, or about 1/10 of 1 percent of the refuge. Since these areas are less than 60 miles from TAPS, development in the coastal plain is the quickest, most environmentally-sound way to increase oil production in Alaska and ensure the pipeline will operate well into the future, providing jobs and supporting the economies of both Alaska and the United States.

The terms of both bills include strong protections for fish and wildlife, fish and wildlife habitat, subsistence resources, and the environment. Development could not move forward if it would cause significant adverse impacts to the coastal plain. Both bills

also return 50 percent of all revenues to the Federal Government, rather than the 10 percent allowed under current law. At approximately $100 per barrel, and given the Coastal Plain's estimate of over 10 billion barrels, there is a trillion dollars' worth of oil locked up beneath this small area in northern Alaska.

As we continue to struggle with high long-term unemployment and unsustainable national debt, we need to pursue development opportunities more than ever. The shale oil and gas boom on state and private lands in the Lower 48 has been the one shining light as our economy struggles to recover from the recession. My bills offer us a chance to produce more of our own energy, for the good of the American people, in an environmentally-friendly way. With oil hovering near $100 a barrel, with so many of our fellow citizens out of work, and with the U.S. nation still about 40 percent dependent on foreign oil—it would be foolish to once again ignore our most promising prospect for new development.

For decades, Alaskans, whom polls show overwhelmingly support development of the coastal plain, have been asking permission to explore and develop the resources located there. Technology has advanced so that it is possible to develop oil and gas from the refuge with little or no impact on the area and its wildlife.

I hope this Congress will have the common sense to allow America to help itself by developing the coastal plain's substantial resources. This is critical to my State and the nation as a whole. With this in mind, I will work to educate the members of this chamber about the opportunity we have and the tremendous benefits it would provide. I will show why such development should occur—why it must occur—and how it can benefit all of us at a time when we so desperately need good economic news.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 455—DESIGNATING MAY 2014 AS ''OLDER AMERICANS MONTH''

Mr. NELSON (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. CARDIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 455

Whereas President John F. Kennedy first designated May as ''Senior Citizens Month'' in 1963;

Whereas in 1963, only 17,000,000 individuals living in the United States were age 65 or older, approximately 1/3 of such individuals lived in poverty, and few programs existed to meet the needs of older individuals in the United States;

Whereas in 2014, there are more than 43,000,000 individuals age 65 or older in the United States, and such individuals account for 13.7 percent of the total population of the United States;

Whereas in 2014, more than 9,600,000 veterans of the Armed Forces are age 65 or older;

Whereas older individuals in the United States rely on Federal programs, such as Social Security, the Medicare program, the Medicaid program, for financial security and high-quality affordable health care;

Whereas the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) provides supportive services to help individuals of the United States who are age 60 or older maintain maximum independence in their homes and communities;

Whereas the Older Americans Act of 1965 provides funding for programs, including nutrition services, transportation, and care management, to assist more than 11,000,000 older individuals in the United States each year;

Whereas compared to older individuals in the United States in past generations, older individuals in the United States in 2014 are working longer, living longer, and enjoying healthier, more active, and more independent lifestyles;

Whereas more than 4,300,000 individuals in the United States age 65 or older continue to work as full-time, year-round employees;

Whereas older individuals in the United States play an important role in society by continuing to contribute their experience, knowledge, wisdom, and accomplishments;

Whereas older individuals in the United States play vital roles in their communities and remain involved in volunteer work, mentoring activities, the arts, cultural activities, and civic engagement; and

Whereas a society that recognizes the success of older individuals and continues to enhance their access to quality and affordable health care will encourage the ongoing participation and heightened independence of such individuals and will ensure the continued safety and well-being of such individuals:

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates May 2014 as ''Older Americans Month''; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to provide opportunities for older individuals to continue to flourish by—

(A) emphasizing the importance and leadership of older individuals through public recognition of their ongoing achievements;

(B) presenting opportunities for older individuals to share their wisdom, experience, and skills with younger generations; and

(C) recognizing older individuals as valuable assets in strengthening communities across the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 456—RECOGNIZING NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT THE CHALLENGES OF CHILDREN IN THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM, AND ENCOURAGING CONGRESS TO IMPLEMENT POLICY TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF CHILDREN IN THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM

Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. HAGAN, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. JOHANNS, Mr. KAINE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mrs. BOXER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 456

Whereas National Foster Care Month was established more than 20 years ago to—

(1) bring foster care issues to the forefront;

(2) highlight the importance of permanency for every child; and

(3) recognize the essential role that foster parents, social workers, and advocates have in the lives of children in foster care throughout the United States;

Whereas all children deserve a safe, loving, and permanent home;

Whereas the primary goal of the foster care system is to ensure the safety and well-being of children while working to provide a safe, loving, and permanent home for each child;

Whereas there are approximately 400,000 children living in foster care;

Whereas there were approximately 252,000 youth that entered the foster care system in 2012, while nearly 102,000 youth were eligible and awaiting adoption at the end of 2012;

Whereas foster care is intended to be a temporary placement, but children remain in the foster care system for an average of 2 years;

Whereas ethnic minority children are more likely to stay in the foster care system for longer periods of time and are less likely to be reunited with their biological families;

Whereas foster parents are the front-line caregivers for children who cannot safely remain with their biological parents and provide physical care, emotional support, education advocacy, and are the largest single source of families providing permanent homes for children leaving foster care to adoption;

Whereas children in foster care who are placed with relatives, compared to children placed with nonrelatives, have more stability, including fewer changes in placements, have more positive perceptions of their placements, are more likely to be placed with their siblings, and demonstrate fewer behavioral problems;

Whereas some relative caregivers receive less financial assistance and support services than do foster caregivers;

Whereas recent studies show children in foster care are prescribed psychotropic medication at rates up to 11 times higher than other children on Medicaid and in amounts that exceed the Food and Drug Administration's guidelines;

Whereas youth in foster care are much more likely to face educational instability with 34 percent of foster youth ages 17 to 18 experiencing at least 5 changes while in care;

Whereas youth in foster care are often cut off from other youth and face hurdles in participating in activities common to their peers, such as sports or extracurricular activities;

Whereas youth in foster care are more susceptible to being trafficked, and more needs to be done to prevent, identify, and intervene when a child becomes a victim of the crime;

Whereas an increased emphasis on prevention and reunification services is necessary to reduce the number of children that are forced to remain in the foster care system;

Whereas more than 23,400 youth ''age out'' of foster care annually without a legal permanent connection to an adult or family;

Whereas children who age out of foster care lack the security or support of a biological or adoptive family and frequently struggle to secure affordable housing, obtain health insurance, pursue higher education, and acquire adequate employment;

Whereas nearly half of children in foster care for five or more years experience 7 or more different foster care placements, which often leads to disruption of routines and the need to change schools and move away from siblings, extended families, and familiar surroundings;

Whereas children entering foster care often confront the widespread misperception that children in foster care are disruptive, unruly, and dangerous, even though placement in

foster care is based on the actions of a parent or guardian, not the child;

Whereas States, localities, and communities should be encouraged to invest resources in preventative and reunification services and post-permanency programs to ensure that more children in foster care are provided with safe, loving, and permanent placements;

Whereas Federal legislation over the past three decades, including the Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980 (Public Law 96–272), the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 (Public Law 105–89), the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–351), the Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act (Public Law 112–34), and the Uninterrupted Scholars Act (Public Law 112–278) provided new investments and services to improve the outcomes of children in the foster care system;

Whereas the Children's Bureau of the Department of Health and Human Services has designated May as National Foster Care Month under the theme ''to help build blocks toward permanent families for foster youth'';

Whereas May would be an appropriate month to designate as National Foster Care Month to provide an opportunity to acknowledge the accomplishments of the child-welfare workforce, foster parents, advocacy community, and mentors for their dedication, accomplishments, and positive impact they have on the lives of children; and

Whereas much remains to be done to ensure that all children have a safe, loving, nurturing, and permanent family, regardless of age or special needs: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes National Foster Care Month as an opportunity to raise awareness about the challenges that children face in the foster-care system;

(2) encourages Congress to implement policy to improve the lives of children in the foster care system and maximize the number children exiting foster care to the protection of safe, loving, and permanent families;

(3) supports the designation of National Foster Care Month;

(4) acknowledges the unique needs of children in the foster-care system;

(5) recognizes foster youth throughout the United States for their ongoing tenacity, courage, and resilience while facing life challenges;

(6) acknowledges the exceptional alumni of the foster-care system who serve as advocates and role models for youth who remain in care;

(7) honors the commitment and dedication of the individuals who work tirelessly to provide assistance and services to children in the foster-care system; and

(8) reaffirms the need to continue working to improve the outcomes of all children in the foster-care system through parts B and E of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) and other programs designed to—

(A) support vulnerable families;

(B) invest in prevention and reunification services;

(C) promote guardianship, adoption, and other permanent placement opportunities in cases where reunification is not in the best interests of the child;

(D) adequately serve those children brought into the foster-care system; and

(E) facilitate the successful transition into adulthood for children that ''age out'' of the foster-care system.

SENATE RESOLUTION 457—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF MAY 18 THROUGH MAY 24, 2014, AS ''NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK''

Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. VITTER, Mr. CARPER, and Mr. BARRASSO) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 457

Whereas public works infrastructure, facilities, and services are of vital importance to the health, safety, and well-being of the people of the United States;

Whereas the public works infrastructure, facilities, and services could not be provided without the dedicated efforts of public works professionals, including engineers and administrators, who represent State and local governments throughout the United States;

Whereas public works professionals design, build, operate, and maintain the transportation systems, water infrastructure, sewage and refuse disposal systems, public buildings, and other structures and facilities that are vital to the people and communities of the United States; and

Whereas understanding the role that public infrastructure plays in protecting the environment, improving public health and safety, contributing to economic vitality, and enhancing the quality of life of every community of the United States is in the interest of the people of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of May 18 through May 24, 2014, as ''National Public Works Week'';

(2) recognizes and celebrates the important contributions that public works professionals make every day to improve—

(A) the public infrastructure of the United States; and

(B) the communities that public works professionals serve; and

(3) urges individuals and communities throughout the United States to join with representatives of the Federal Government and the American Public Works Association in activities and ceremonies that are designed—

(A) to pay tribute to the public works professionals of the United States; and

(B) to recognize the substantial contributions that public works professionals make to the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 458—RECOGNIZING MAY AS JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH AND HONORING HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS AND THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. KIRK, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. NELSON, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. PORTMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 458

Whereas in May of each year, people across the United States recognize and celebrate over 350 years of Jewish contributions to the United States through Jewish American Heritage Month;

Whereas during the Holocaust, the Nazi regime murdered approximately 6,000,000 Jews, in addition to millions of non-Jews, between 1933 and 1945;

Whereas the Nazi regime also imprisoned, persecuted, and tortured hundreds of thousands of Jewish victims who nonetheless survived;

Whereas the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Holocaust Encyclopedia estimates that more than 200,000 persecuted Jews found refuge in the United States between 1933 and 1945, and that approximately 137,000 Jewish refugees settled in the United States after World War II in the years between 1945 and 1952;

Whereas in subsequent decades, Jewish refugees continued to immigrate to the United States from Europe, the Middle East, and the former Soviet Union;

Whereas many survivors of the Holocaust have dedicated their lives to educating future generations about the dangers of bigotry and anti-Semitism and the resiliency of the human spirit; and

Whereas countless survivors of the Holocaust living in the United States have made numerous and substantial contributions to society in the areas of the humanities, science, government, law, history, medicine, military service, philosophy, social justice, technology, and more, including—

(1) a Marylander who bravely led the decades-long fight for reparations from the French rail companies that transported victims to Nazi concentration camps and killing centers;

(2) a former judge on the International Court of Justice and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, who was a member of the United Nations Human Rights Committee, and who is currently a professor specializing in international justice at The George Washington University Law School;

(3) a native of France who survived a series of Nazi concentration camps and became a well-known author, lecturer, and actor who appeared as Corporal Louis LeBeau on the 1960s television series Hogan's Heroes;

(4) a native of Poland who spent his childhood in a Nazi labor camp, was educated in the United States, and became a renowned chemist, author, professor, and poet, winning the 1981 Nobel Prize in Chemistry;

(5) a former Member of the House of Representatives and Chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, and founder of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, who, along with his wife and fellow survivor, devoted his life to championing human rights and freedom around the world;

(6) a Polish-born author, historian, educator, member of the United States Holocaust Commission, and recipient of the 2010 Presidential Medal of Freedom;

(7) an Austrian native, literary scholar, and professor who authored a 1992 autobiography, Still Alive: A Holocaust Girlhood Remembered, and numerous scholarly publications on the Holocaust and anti-Semitism;

(8) a Croatian-born survivor who helped produce the movie Schindler's List and became an advisor to the USC Shoah Foundation, an archive of testimonies of genocide survivors chaired by Steven Spielberg;

(9) an Illinoisan who created the International Monetary Market, served as chairman of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, and revolutionized markets by creating financial futures after fleeing Holocaust-era Poland as a child;

(10) a Hungarian survivor who served in the United States Army in the Korean War and who was awarded the Medal of Honor in 2005 for his heroic actions while being held in a Chinese POW camp that saved the lives of at least 40 fellow soldiers;

(11) a native of Germany who escaped Nazi Germany as a teenager, served as a corporal in the United States Army, was an interpreter and analyst during the Nuremberg Trials, served in the Foreign Service of the Department of State, and authored a book about a Jewish resistor who assassinated a

Nazi official and another about Allied intelligence near the end of World War II;

(12) a world-renowned psychosexual therapist, radio and television personality, professor, and author who escaped Nazi Germany as a child and fought in the Israeli War of Independence; and

(13) the winner of the 1986 Nobel Peace Prize, an author, professor, and activist, whose memoir Night is an internationally acclaimed account of the terrors of the Holocaust:

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes May 2014 as Jewish American Heritage Month;

(2) expresses appreciation for the substantial and varied contributions made to the United States by the survivors of the Holocaust;

(3) encourages the people of the United States to learn about the efforts and achievements of Holocaust survivors who immigrated to the United States in the years following World War II;

(4) expresses admiration for the more than 100,000 Holocaust survivors living in the United States who continue to bear witness to their personal stories and educate the world; and

(5) understands the hardships Holocaust survivors have endured, and supports their desire to age with dignity and comfort in their homes and communities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 459—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE WITH RESPECT TO CHILDHOOD STROKE AND RECOGNIZING MAY 2014 AS ''NATIONAL PEDIATRIC STROKE AWARENESS MONTH''

Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. CHAMBLISS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 459

Whereas a stroke, also known as cerebrovascular disease, is an acute neurologic injury that occurs when the blood supply to a part of the brain is interrupted by a clot in the artery or a burst of the artery;

Whereas a stroke is a medical emergency that can cause permanent neurologic damage or even death if not promptly diagnosed and treated;

Whereas a stroke occurs in approximately 1 out of every 3,500 live births, and 4.6 out of 100,000 children ages 19 and under experience a stroke each year;

Whereas a stroke can occur before birth;

Whereas stroke is among the top 12 causes of death for children between the ages of 1 and 14 in the United States;

Whereas 20 to 40 percent of children who have suffered a stroke die as a result;

Whereas a stroke recurs within 5 years in 10 percent of children who have had an ischemic or hemorrhagic stroke;

Whereas the death rate for children who experience a stroke before the age of 1 is the highest out of all child age groups;

Whereas there are no approved therapies for the treatment of acute stroke in infants and children;

Whereas approximately 60 percent of infants and children who have a pediatric stroke will have serious, permanent neurological disabilities, including paralysis, seizures, speech and vision problems, and attention, learning, and behavioral difficulties;

Whereas such disabilities may require ongoing physical therapy and surgeries;

Whereas the permanent health concerns of and treatments for strokes that occur during childhood and young adulthood have considerable impacts on children, families, and society;

Whereas more information is necessary regarding the cause, treatment, and prevention of pediatric strokes;

Whereas medical research is the only means by which the people of the United States can identify and develop effective treatment and prevention strategies for pediatric strokes; and

Whereas early diagnosis and treatment of pediatric strokes greatly improves the chances that an affected child will recover and not experience a recurrence of a stroke: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes May 2014 as ''National Pediatric Stroke Awareness Month'';

(2) urges the people of the United States to support the efforts, programs, services, and organizations that enhance public awareness of pediatric stroke;

(3) supports the work of the National Institutes of Health in pursuit of medical progress on pediatric stroke; and

(4) urges continued coordination and cooperation between the Federal Government, State and local governments, researchers, families, and the public to improve treatments and prognoses for children who suffer from strokes.

SENATE RESOLUTION 460—RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF MAY 2014 AS ASIAN/PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH AS AN IMPORTANT TIME TO CELEBRATE THE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS OF ASIAN AMERICANS AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS TO THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES

Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. REID, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. BROWN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. HELLER, Mr. KIRK, Ms. CANTWELL, and Mr. WARNER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 460

Whereas the United States joins together each May to pay tribute to the contributions of generations of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders who have enriched the history of the United States;

Whereas the history of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the United States is inextricably tied to the story of the United States;

Whereas the Asian American and Pacific Islander community is an inherently diverse population comprised of more than 45 distinct ethnicities and more than 100 language dialects;

Whereas, according to the Bureau of the Census, the Asian American population grew faster than any other racial or ethnic group in the United States during the last decade, surging nearly 46 percent between 2000 and 2010, which is a growth rate 4 times faster than that of the total population of the United States;

Whereas the 2010 decennial census estimated that there are approximately 17,300,000 residents of the United States who identify as Asian and approximately 1,200,000 residents of the United States who identify themselves as Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, making up approximately 5.5 percent and 0.4 percent, respectively, of the total population of the United States;

Whereas the month of May was selected for Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month because the first immigrants from Japan arrived in the United States on May 7, 1843, and the first transcontinental railroad was completed on May 10, 1869, with substantial contributions from immigrants from China;

Whereas section 102 of title 36, United States Code, officially designates May as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month and requests the President to issue an annual proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe the month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities;

Whereas Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, such as Daniel K. Inouye, a Medal of Honor and Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient who, as President Pro Tempore of the Senate, was the highest-ranking Asian American government official in United States history, Dalip Singh Saund, the first Asian American Congressman, Patsy T. Mink, the first woman of color and Asian American woman to be elected to Congress, Hiram L. Fong, the first Asian American Senator, and others have made significant contributions in both our government and our military including the first Asian American cabinet member in 2000 and the first female Asian American cabinet member in 2001;

Whereas the year 2014 marks several important milestones for the Asian American and Pacific Islander community, including—

(1) the 15th anniversary of the establishment of the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders under Executive Order 13125 by President William J. Clinton;

(2) the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, a bicameral caucus of Members of Congress advocating on behalf of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders; and

(3) the 20th anniversary of the creation of the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies;

Whereas in 2014, the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, a bicameral caucus of Members of Congress advocating on behalf of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, is composed of 41 Members, including 13 Members of Asian or Pacific Islander descent;

Whereas in 2014, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are serving in State legislatures across the United States in record numbers, including in the States of Alaska, Arizona, California, Connecticut, Colorado, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, and Washington;

Whereas the number of Federal judges who are Asian Americans or Pacific Islanders doubled between 2001 and 2008 and more than tripled between 2009 and 2014, reflecting a commitment to diversity in the Federal judiciary that has resulted in the confirmations of high caliber Asian American and Pacific Islander judicial nominees;

Whereas there remains much to be done to ensure that Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have access to resources and a voice in the Government of the United States and continue to advance in the political landscape of the United States; and

Whereas celebrating Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month provides the people of the United States with an opportunity to recognize the achievements, contributions, and history of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, and to appreciate the challenges faced by Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the significance of May 2014 as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month

as an important time to celebrate the significant contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to the history of the United States; and

(2) recognizes that the Asian American and Pacific Islander community enhances the rich diversity of and strengthens the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 461—HONORING JAMES L. OBERSTAR AS A REMARKABLE PUBLIC SERVANT WHO SERVED IN CONGRESS WITH EXTRAORDINARY DEDICATION AND PURPOSE

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. HARKIN, and Mr. BEGICH) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 461

Whereas James L. Oberstar was born on September 10, 1934, in Chisholm, Minnesota;

Whereas James L. Oberstar was a distinguished legislator who served 36 years in Congress, from 1975 to 2011, as a member of the House of Representatives from northern Minnesota, making him the longest serving Congressman for the State of Minnesota;

Whereas James L. Oberstar was an expert on public works and transportation issues and devoted his public career to improving transportation and infrastructure, including through his work as a staff member for John Blatnik, member of the House of Representatives from Minnesota, from 1963 to 1974;

Whereas James L. Oberstar was a staunch supporter of the iron ore industry in Minnesota and fought tirelessly to keep the mines open, protect the rights of workers, and improve safety conditions;

Whereas, throughout his career, James L. Oberstar secured Federal funding for local communities for the development of bike lanes, sidewalks, biking trails, and hiking trails across Minnesota and the United States;

Whereas James L. Oberstar was the Chair of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives during the 110th and 111th Congress;

Whereas James L. Oberstar was a supporter of the Federal Safe Routes to School Program which improves safety on walking and bicycling routes to school and encourages children and families to travel between home and school by walking or biking;

Whereas James L. Oberstar introduced H.R. 3311 during the 110th Congress to provide emergency funding to replace the I-35W bridge in Minneapolis, Minnesota, after its tragic collapse in 2007;

Whereas James L. Oberstar was a strong advocate for improving aviation safety and served as Chair of the Subcommittee on Aviation of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives from 1989 to 1994; and

Whereas James L. Oberstar was a tireless champion of maritime issues, particularly those on the Great Lakes, and on May 24, 2011, the shipping vessel the Honorable James L. Oberstar was christened in Duluth, Minnesota: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors James L. Oberstar as a remarkable public servant who served in Congress with extraordinary dedication and purpose;

(2) remembers the work James L. Oberstar accomplished to improve transportation, infrastructure, and mine safety; and

(3) recognizes the indelible legacy James L. Oberstar has left on the State of Minnesota and the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 462—RECOGNIZING THE KHMER AND LAO/HMONG FREEDOM FIGHTERS OF CAMBODIA AND LAOS FOR SUPPORTING AND DEFENDING THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES DURING THE CONFLICT IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND FOR THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT AND DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. RUBIO submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 462

Whereas the Khmer and Lao/Hmong Freedom Fighters (also known as the ''Khmer and Lao/Hmong veterans'') fought and died with United States Armed Forces during the conflict in Southeast Asia;

Whereas the Khmer and Lao/Hmong Freedom Fighters rescued United States pilots shot down in enemy-controlled territory and returned the pilots to safety;

Whereas the Khmer and Lao/Hmong Freedom Fighters retrieved and prevented from falling into enemy hands secret and sensitive information, technology, and equipment;

Whereas the Khmer and Lao/Hmong Freedom Fighters captured and destroyed enemy supplies and prevented enemy forces from using the supplies to kill members of the United States Armed Forces;

Whereas the Khmer and Lao/Hmong Freedom Fighters gathered and provided to the United States Armed Forces intelligence about enemy troop positions, movement, and strength;

Whereas the Khmer and Lao/Hmong Freedom Fighters provided food, shelter, and support to the United States Armed Forces;

Whereas the Khmer and Lao/Hmong Freedom Fighters facilitated the evacuation of the United States Embassy in Phnom Penh on April 12, 1975, by continuing to fight Khmer Rouge forces as the forces advanced upon the capital;

Whereas, in 2014, the Khmer and Lao/Hmong Freedom Fighters are still subject to intimidation, ridicule, discrimination, and death if identified in Cambodia or Laos;

Whereas veterans of the Khmer Mobile Guerrilla Forces, the Lao/Hmong Special Guerrilla Units, and the Khmer Republic Armed Forces defended human rights, freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and freedom of representation and association; and

Whereas the Khmer and Lao/Hmong Freedom Fighters have not yet received official recognition from the United States Government for their heroic efforts and support: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate affirms and recognizes the Khmer and Lao/Hmong Freedom Fighters and the people of Cambodia and Laos for their support and defense of the United States Armed Forces and freedom of democracy in Southeast Asia.

SENATE RESOLUTION 463—HONORING THE LIFE, ACCOMPLISHMENTS, AND LEGACY OF BILLY FRANK, JR., AND EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON HIS PASSING

Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. CANTWELL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 463

Whereas in the 1850s, the United States Government signed a series of treaties with Washington State tribes under which the tribes granted millions of acres of land to the United States in exchange for the establishment of reservations and the recognition of traditional hunting and fishing rights;

Whereas Billy Frank, Jr. was born to Willie Frank, Sr. and Angeline Frank on March 9, 1931, at Frank's Landing on the banks of the Nisqually River in Washington State;

Whereas the tireless efforts and dedication of Billy Frank, Jr. led to a historic legal victory that ensured that the United States would honor promises made in treaties with the Washington tribes;

Whereas Billy Frank, Jr. was first arrested in December of 1945, at the age of 14, for fishing for salmon in the Nisqually River;

Whereas Billy Frank, Jr. was subsequently arrested more than 50 times for exercising his treaty-protected right to fish for salmon;

Whereas over the years, Billy Frank, Jr. and other tribal members staged ''fish-ins'' that often placed the protestors in danger of being arrested or attacked;

Whereas during these fish-ins, Billy Frank, Jr. and others demanded that they be allowed to fish in historically tribal waters, a right the Nisqually had reserved in the Treaty of Medicine Creek;

Whereas declining salmon runs in Washington waters resulted in increased arrests of tribal members exercising their fishing rights under the Treaty;

Whereas on February 12, 1974, in the case of United States v. Washington, Judge George Hugo Boldt of the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington issued a decision that affirmed the right of Washington treaty tribes to take up to half of the harvestable fish in tribal fishing waters and reaffirmed that the United States must honor treaties made with Native American tribes;

Whereas the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court of the United States upheld the Boldt decision, and the treaty tribes became co-managers of the salmon resource in the State of Washington;

Whereas after the Boldt decision, Billy Frank, Jr. continued his fight to protect natural resources, salmon, and a healthy environment;

Whereas the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, where Billy Frank, Jr. served as chairman, works to establish working relationships with State agencies and non-Indian groups to manage fisheries, restore and protect habitats, and protect tribal treaty rights;

Whereas Billy Frank, Jr. refused to be bitter in the face of jail, racism, and abuse, and his influence was felt not just in Washington State but around the world;

Whereas Billy Frank, Jr. was awarded the Albert Schweitzer Prize for Humanitarianism, the Common Cause Award for Human Rights Efforts, the American Indian Distinguished Service Award, the Washington State Environmental Excellence Award, and the Wallace Stegner Award for his years of service and dedication to his battle;

Whereas the legacy of Billy Frank, Jr. will live on in stories, in memories, and every time a tribal member exercises his or her right to harvest salmon in Washington State; and

Whereas the legacy of Billy Frank, Jr. transcends his 83 years and will provide inspiration to those still around today and those still to come: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the life, legacy, and many accomplishments of Billy Frank, Jr.; and

(2) extends its heartfelt sympathies and condolences to the family of Billy Frank,

Jr., the Nisqually Tribe, all Native Americans, and all people around the world who were inspired by his example.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 36—PERMITTING THE USE OF THE ROTUNDA OF THE CAPITOL FOR A CEREMONY TO AWARD THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO THE NEXT OF KIN OR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF RAOUL WALLENBERG

Mrs. GILLIBRAND submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 36

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),

SECTION 1. USE OF ROTUNDA FOR CEREMONY TO AWARD CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO THE NEXT OF KIN OR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF RAOUL WALLENBERG.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The rotunda of the Capitol is authorized to be used on July 9, 2014, for a ceremony to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the next of kin or personal representative of Raoul Wallenberg in recognition of his achievements and heroic actions during the Holocaust.

(b) PREPARATIONS.—Physical preparations for the ceremony described in subsection (a) shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as the Architect of the Capitol may prescribe.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3227. Mr. REID (for Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Ms. MURKOWSKI)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2198, to direct the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to take actions to provide additional water supplies to the State of California due to drought, and for other purposes.

SA 3228. Mr. REID (for Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Ms. MURKOWSKI)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2198, supra.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3227. Mr. REID (for Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Ms. MURKOWSKI)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2198, to direct the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to take actions to provide additional water supplies to the State of California due to drought, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Emergency Drought Relief Act of 2014''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. Findings.
Sec. 3. Definitions.
Sec. 4. Emergency projects.
Sec. 5. Emergency environmental reviews.
Sec. 6. State revolving funds.
Sec. 7. Effect on State laws.
Sec. 8. Termination of authorities.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) as established in the Proclamation of a State of Emergency issued by the Governor of the State on January 17, 2014, the State is experiencing record dry conditions;

(2) extremely dry conditions have persisted in the State since 2012, and the drought conditions are likely to persist into the future;

(3) the water supplies of the State are at record-low levels, as indicated by a statewide average snowpack of 12 percent of the normal average for winter as of February 1, 2014, and the fact that all major Central Valley Project reservoir levels are at or below 50 percent of the capacity of the reservoirs as of April 1, 2014;

(4) the 2013-2014 drought constitutes a serious emergency posing immediate and severe risks to human life and safety and to the environment throughout the State;

(5) the emergency requires—

(A) immediate and credible action that respects the complexity of the water system of the State and the importance of the water system to the entire State; and

(B) policies that do not pit stakeholders against one another, which history has shown only leads to costly litigation that benefits no one and prevents any real solutions;

(6) Federal law (including regulations) directly authorizes expedited decisionmaking procedures and environmental and public review procedures to enable timely and appropriate implementation of actions to respond to such a type and severity of emergency; and

(7) the serious emergency posed by the 2013-2014 drought in the State fully satisfies the conditions necessary for the exercise of emergency decisionmaking, analytical, and public review requirements under—

(A) the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.);

(B) the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.);

(C) water control management procedures of the Corps of Engineers described in section 222.5 of title 33, Code of Federal Regulations (including successor regulations); and

(D) the Reclamation States Emergency Drought Relief Act of 1991 (Public Law 102–250; 106 Stat. 53).

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) CENTRAL VALLEY PROJECT.—The term ''Central Valley Project'' has the meaning given the term in section 3403 of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (106 Stat. 4707).

(2) KLAMATH PROJECT.—The term ''Klamath Project'' means the Bureau of Reclamation project in the States of California and Oregon, as authorized under the Act of June 17, 1902 (32 Stat. 388, chapter 1093).

(3) RECLAMATION PROJECT.—The term ''Reclamation Project'' means a project constructed pursuant to the authorities of the reclamation laws and whose facilities are wholly or partially located in the State.

(4) SECRETARIES.—The term ''Secretaries'' means—

(A) the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency;

(B) the Secretary of Agriculture;

(C) the Secretary of Commerce; and

(D) the Secretary of the Interior.

(5) STATE.—The term ''State'' means the State of California.

(6) STATE WATER PROJECT.—The term ''State Water Project'' means the water project described by California Water Code section 11550 et seq., and operated by the California Department of Water Resources.

SEC. 4. EMERGENCY PROJECTS.

(a) WATER SUPPLIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In response to the declaration of a state of drought emergency by the Governor of the State, the Secretaries shall provide the maximum quantity of water supplies possible to Central Valley Project agricultural, municipal and industrial, and refuge service and repayment contractors, State Water Project contractors, and any other locality or municipality in the State, by approving, consistent with applicable laws (including regulations), projects and operations to provide additional water supplies as quickly as possible based on available information to address the emergency conditions.

(2) APPLICATION.—Paragraph (1) applies to projects or operations involving the Klamath Project if the projects or operations would benefit Federal water contractors in the State.

(b) LIMITATION.—Nothing in this section allows agencies to approve projects—

(1) that would otherwise require congressional authorization; or

(2) without following procedures required by applicable law.

(c) ADMINISTRATION.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Secretaries shall, consistent with applicable laws (including regulations)—

(1) authorize and implement actions to ensure that the Delta Cross Channel Gates shall remain open to the greatest extent possible, timed to maximize the peak flood tide period and provide water supply and water quality benefits for the duration of the drought emergency declaration of the State, consistent with operational criteria and monitoring criteria developed pursuant to the California State Water Resources Control Board's Order Approving a Temporary Urgency Change in License and Permit Terms in Response to Drought Conditions, effective January 31, 2014, or a successor order;

(2)(A) collect data associated with the operation of the Delta Cross Channel Gates described in paragraph (1) and the impact of the operation on species listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), water quality, and water supply; and

(B) after assessing the data described in subparagraph (A), require the Director of the National Marine Fisheries Service to recommend revisions to operations of the Central Valley Project and the California State Water Project, including, if appropriate, the reasonable and prudent alternatives contained in the biological opinion issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service on June 4, 2009, that are likely to produce fishery, water quality, and water supply benefits;

(3)(A) implement turbidity control strategies that allow for increased water deliveries while avoiding jeopardy to adult delta smelt (Hypomesus transpacificus) due to entrainment at Central Valley Project and State Water Project pumping plants; and

(B) manage reverse flow in the Old and Middle Rivers as prescribed by the biological opinions issued by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service on December 15, 2008, for Delta smelt and by the National Marine Fisheries Service on June 4, 2009, for salmonids, to minimize water supply reductions for the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project;

(4) adopt a 1:1 inflow to export ratio for the increased flow of the San Joaquin River, as measured as a 3-day running average at Vernalis during the period from April 1 through May 31, resulting from voluntary transfers and exchanges of water supplies, among other purposes;

(5) issue all necessary permit decisions under the authority of the Secretaries within 30 days of receiving a completed application by the State to place and use temporary barriers or operable gates in Delta channels to improve water quantity and quality for State Water Project and Central Valley Project South of Delta water contractors and other water users, which barriers or gates should provide benefits for species protection and in-Delta water user water quality and shall be designed such that formal consultations under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536) would not be necessary;

(6)(A) require the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation to complete all requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) and the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) necessary to make final permit decisions on water transfer requests associated with voluntarily fallowing nonpermanent crops in the State, within 30 days of receiving such a request; and

(B) require the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to allow any water transfer request associated with fallowing to maximize the quantity of water supplies available for nonhabitat uses as long as the fallowing and associated water transfer are in compliance with applicable Federal laws (including regulations);

(7) participate in, issue grants, or otherwise provide funding for, as soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, under existing authority available to the Secretary of the Interior, pilot projects to increase water in reservoirs in regional river basins experiencing extreme, exceptional, or sustained drought that have a direct impact on the water supply of the State, including the Colorado River Basin, provided that any participation, grant, or funding by the Secretary with respect to the Upper Division shall be with or to the respective State;

(8) maintain all rescheduled water supplies held in the San Luis Reservoir and Millerton Reservoir for all water users for delivery in the immediately following contract water year unless precluded by reservoir storage capacity limitations;

(9) to the maximum extent possible based on the availability of water and without causing land subsidence or violating water quality standards—

(A) meet the contract water supply needs of Central Valley Project refuges through the improvement or installation of water conservation measures, water conveyance facilities, and wells to use groundwater resources, which activities may be accomplished by using funding made available under the Water Assistance Program or the WaterSMART program of the Department of the Interior; and

(B) make a quantity of Central Valley Project surface water obtained from the measures implemented under subparagraph (A) available to Central Valley Project contractors;

(10) in coordination with the Secretary of Agriculture, enter into an agreement with the National Academy of Sciences to conduct a comprehensive study, to be completed not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, on the effectiveness and environmental impacts of saltcedar biological control efforts on increasing water supplies and improving riparian habitats of the Colorado River and its principal tributaries, in the State and elsewhere;

(11) make any WaterSMART grant funding allocated to the State available on a priority and expedited basis for projects in the State that—

(A) provide emergency drinking and municipal water supplies to localities in a quantity necessary to meet minimum public health and safety needs;

(B) prevent the loss of permanent crops;

(C) minimize economic losses resulting from drought conditions; or

(D) provide innovative water conservation tools and technology for agriculture and urban water use that can have immediate water supply benefits;

(12) implement offsite upstream projects in the Delta and upstream Sacramento River and San Joaquin basins, in coordination with the California Department of Water Resources and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, that offset the effects on species listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) due to actions taken under this Act; and

(13) use all available scientific tools to identify any changes to real-time operations of Bureau of Reclamation, State and local water projects that could result in the availability of additional water supplies.

(d) OTHER AGENCIES.—To the extent that a Federal agency other than agencies headed by the Secretaries has a role in approving projects described in subsections (a) and (c), this section shall apply to those Federal agencies.

(e) ACCELERATED PROJECT DECISION AND ELEVATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Upon the request of the State, the heads of Federal agencies shall use the expedited procedures under this subsection to make final decisions relating to a Federal project or operation to provide additional water supplies or address emergency drought conditions pursuant to subsections (a) and (c).

(2) REQUEST FOR RESOLUTION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Upon the request of the State, the head of an agency referred to in subsection (a), or the head of another Federal agency responsible for carrying out a review of a project, as applicable, the Secretary of the Interior shall convene a final project decision meeting with the heads of all relevant Federal agencies to decide whether to approve a project to provide emergency water supplies.

(B) MEETING.—The Secretary of the Interior shall convene a meeting requested under subparagraph (A) not later than 7 days after receiving the meeting request.

(3) NOTIFICATION.—Upon receipt of a request for a meeting under this subsection, the Secretary of the Interior shall notify the heads of all relevant Federal agencies of the request, including the project to be reviewed and the date for the meeting.

(4) DECISION.—Not later than 10 days after the date on which a meeting is requested under paragraph (2), the head of the relevant Federal agency shall issue a final decision on the project.

(5) MEETING CONVENED BY SECRETARY.—The Secretary of the Interior may convene a final project decision meeting under this subsection at any time, at the discretion of the Secretary, regardless of whether a meeting is requested under paragraph (2).

SEC. 5. EMERGENCY ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWS.

To minimize the time spent carrying out environmental reviews and to deliver water quickly that is needed to address emergency drought conditions in the State, the head of each applicable Federal agency shall, in carrying out this Act, consult with the Council on Environmental Quality in accordance with section 1506.11 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (including successor regulations) to develop alternative arrangements to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) during the emergency.

SEC. 6. STATE REVOLVING FUNDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, in allocating amounts for each of the fiscal years during which the emergency drought declaration of the State is in force to State water pollution control revolving funds established under title VI of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1381 et seq.) and the State drinking water treatment revolving loan funds established under section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–12), shall, for those projects that are eligible to receive assistance under section 603 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1383) or section 1452(a)(2) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–12(a)(2)), respectively, that the State determines will provide additional water supplies most expeditiously to areas that are at risk of having an inadequate supply of water for public health and safety purposes or to improve resiliency to drought—

(1) require the State to review and prioritize funding for such projects;

(2) issue a determination of waivers within 30 days of the conclusion of the informal public comment period pursuant to section 436(c) of title IV of division G of Public Law 113–76; and

(3) authorize, at the request of the State, 40-year financing for assistance under section 603(d)(2) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1383(d)(2)) or section 1452(f)(2) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–12(f)(2)).

(b) EFFECT OF SECTION.—Nothing in this section authorizes the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to modify any funding allocation, funding criteria, or other requirement relating to State water pollution control revolving funds established under title VI of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1381 et seq.) and the State drinking water treatment revolving loan funds established under section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–12) for any other State.

SEC. 7. EFFECT ON STATE LAWS.

Nothing in this Act preempts any State law in effect on the date of enactment of this Act, including area of origin and other water rights protections.

SEC. 8. TERMINATION OF AUTHORITIES.

The authorities under section 4(a), paragraphs (1) through (6) of section 4(c), paragraphs (8) and (9) of section 4(c), paragraphs (11) through (13) of section 4(c), section 5, and section 6 permanently expire on the date on which the Governor of the State suspends the state of drought emergency declaration.

SA 3228. Mr. REID (for Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Ms. MURKOWSKI)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2198, to direct the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to take actions to provide additional water supplies to the State of California due to drought, and for other purposes; as follows:

Amend the title to read as follows: ''To direct the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to take actions to provide additional water supplies to the State of California due to drought, and for other purposes.''.

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions will meet on May 22, 2014, at 10 a.m. in room SD–430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled ''Examining Access and Supports for Servicemembers and Veterans in Higher Education.''

For further information regarding this meeting, please contact Aissa Canchola of the committee staff on (202) 224–2009.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 22, 2014, at 9:30 a.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet, during the session of the Senate, on May 22, 2014, at 10 a.m. in room SD–430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled ''Examining Access and Supports for Servicemembers and Veterans in Higher Education.''

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOUSING, TRANSPORTATION, AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Subcommittee on Housing, Transportation, and Community Development be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 22, 2014, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled ''Bringing Our Transit Infrastructure to a State of Good Repair.''

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator MENENDEZ, I ask unanimous consent that Chris Landberg, a detailee from the State Department to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, be granted floor privileges through June 12, 2014.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations: Calendar Nos. 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, and all nominations placed on the Secretary's desk in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and Navy; that the nominations be confirmed, en bloc; 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 to any of the nominations; 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 are as follows:

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be brigadier general

Col. William P. Robertson

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. Anthony G. Crutchfield

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. James C. McConville

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force 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. Gregory A. Biscone

The following named officer 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. Kathleen A. Cook

The following named officer for appointment as the Deputy Judge Advocate General of the Air Force and appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 8037:

To be major general

Col. Jeffrey A. Rockwell

IN THE NAVY

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 (lower half)

Captain Brian J. Brakke
Captain Richard A. Brown
Captain James S. Bynum
Captain Peter J. Clarke
Captain Scott D. Conn
Captain Brian K. Corey
Captain Richard A. Correll
Captain Marc H. Dalton
Captain Collin P. Green
Captain Dale E. Horan
Captain Mary M. Jackson
Captain James W Kilby
Captain Roy I. Kitchener
Captain James J. Malloy
Captain Ross A. Myers
Captain Jeffrey S. Ruth
Captain Lorin C. Selby
Captain John W. Tammen, Jr.
Captain Kent D. Whalen
Captain Kenneth R. Whitesell
Captain Charles F Williams
Captain Jesse A. Wilson, Jr.

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. Timothy C. Gallaudet

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. 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 (lower half)

Capt. Johnny R. Wolfe, Jr.

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force 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. Samuel A. Greaves

The following named officer 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. Warren D. Berry

The following named officer 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. Jon A. Norman

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 8081:

To be major general

Col. Roosevelt Allen, Jr.

The following Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be brigadier general

Col. Richard W. Kelly

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force 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. Carlton D. Everhart, II

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force 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. Darryl L. Roberson

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force 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. Ellen M. Pawlikowski

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. Karen E. Dyson

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment as the Judge Advocate General of the Air Force and for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while serving as the Judge Advocate General under title 10, U.S.C., section 8037:

To be lieutenant general

Brig. Gen. Christopher F. Burne

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force 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. Marshall B. Webb

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

Lt. Gen. Raymond A. Thomas, III

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. Thomas S. Rowden

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 F. Kirby

IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Marine Corps 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. Jon M. Davis

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Marine Corps 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. Kenneth F. McKenzie, Jr.

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Marine Corps 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. Robert B. Neller

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Marine Corps 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. John A. Toolan, Jr.

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Marine Corps Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be brigadier general

Col. Patrick J. Hermesmann
Col. Helen G. Pratt

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force 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. James M. Holmes

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

IN THE AIR FORCE

PN1593 AIR FORCE nomination of Scott A. Raber, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 10, 2014.

PN1594 AIR FORCE nomination of Mark D. Levin, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 10, 2014.

PN1595 AIR FORCE nominations (2) beginning JEREMY P. GARLICK, and ending DERICK A. SAGER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 10, 2014.

PN1596 AIR FORCE nomination of Tonya Y. White, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 10, 2014.

PN1597 AIR FORCE nomination of Daniel L. Rosera, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 10, 2014.

PN1598 AIR FORCE nominations (2) beginning JASON E. OBRIEN, and ending ERIK D. RUDIGER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 10, 2014.

PN1627 AIR FORCE nomination of Robert J. Trainer, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 1, 2014.

PN1667 AIR FORCE nominations (6) beginning KENNETH G. CROOKS, and ending JAMES D. TIMS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 7, 2014.

PN1669 AIR FORCE nominations (16) beginning KIM L. BOWEN, and ending DANIEL K. WATERMAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 7, 2014.

PN1671 AIR FORCE nominations (107) beginning VICTORIA M. AGLEWILSON, and ending DEBORAH L. WILLIS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 7, 2014.

PN1672 AIR FORCE nominations (24) beginning HEATHER A. BODWELL, and ending CHRISTIAN L. WILLIAMS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 7, 2014.

PN1710 AIR FORCE nominations (8) beginning ERICH M. GAUGER, and ending TIMOTHY J. ZIELICKE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 15, 2014.

PN1711 AIR FORCE nominations (2) beginning ANTHONY F. FONTENOS, and ending VU T. NGUYEN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 15, 2014.

PN1712–1 AIR FORCE nominations (105) beginning PETER G BAILEY, and ending KEVIN R. WINDSOR, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 15, 2014.

IN THE ARMY

PN1530 ARMY nomination of Randolph S. Wardle, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 13, 2014.

PN1599 ARMY nomination of Stanley F. Zezotarski, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 10, 2014.

PN1600 ARMY nomination of Eric S. Comette, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 10, 2014.

PN1601 ARMY nomination of William D. Swenson, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 10, 2014.

PN1602 ARMY nomination of Gregory R. Shepard, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 10, 2014.

PN1603 ARMY nominations (8) beginning DAVID F. CAPORICCI, and ending ERIC G. WISHART, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 10, 2014.

PN1628 ARMY nomination of Philander Pinckney, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 1, 2014.

PN1629 ARMY nomination of Elizabeth Joyce, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 1, 2014.

PN1630 ARMY nomination of Jasmine T. Daniels, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 1, 2014.

PN1631 ARMY nominations (3) beginning JAN S. SUNDE, and ending HIMANSHU PATHAK, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 1, 2014.

PN1632 ARMY nomination of Joseph L. Craver, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 1, 2014.

PN1673 ARMY nominations (286) beginning MARIBETH A. AFFELDT, and ending R10045, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 7, 2014.

PN1674–1 ARMY nominations (244) beginning MIGUEL AGUILAR, and ending MARK A. ZINSER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 7, 2014.

PN1675 ARMY nominations (50) beginning JEFFREY M. ABEL, and ending DEBORAH A. WILSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 7, 2014.

PN1676 ARMY nominations (4) beginning BOBBY L. CHRISTINE, and ending JAMES K. MASSENGILL, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 7, 2014.

PN1713 ARMY nominations (9) beginning RONALD W. BURKETT, II, and ending BRIAN J. MELTON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 15, 2014.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

PN1341 MARINE CORPS nominations (261) beginning WILLIAM B. ALLEN, IV, and ending JAMES L. ZEPKO, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 9, 2014.

PN1437 MARINE CORPS nomination of Richard P. Owens, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 10, 2014.

PN1440 MARINE CORPS nomination of Robert M. Manning, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 10, 2014.

PN1607 MARINE CORPS nominations (8) beginning JAMES P. EDMUNDS, III, and ending PAUL B. WEBB, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 10, 2014.

PN1608 MARINE CORPS nominations (39) beginning LEONARD F. ANDERSON, IV, and ending KONSTANTIN E. ZOGANAS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 10, 2014.

IN THE NAVY

PN1609 NAVY nomination of William A. Garren, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 10, 2014.

PN1610 NAVY nomination of Leander J. Sackey, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 10, 2014.

PN1611 NAVY nomination of Christopher M. Davis, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 10, 2014.

PN1633 NAVY nomination of Charles E. Varsogea, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 1, 2014.

PN1634 NAVY nomination of Louis J. Lazzara, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 1, 2014.

PN1635 NAVY nomination of Tara M. McArthur-Milton, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 1, 2014.

PN1636 NAVY nomination of Todd W. Boehm, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 1, 2014.

PN1651 NAVY nominations (33) beginning JOHN I. ACTKINSON, and ending JUSTIN R. WOLFE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 5, 2014.

PN1652 NAVY nomination of Robert J. Polvino, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 5, 2014.

PN1677 NAVY nomination of Victor Sorrentino, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 7, 2014.

PN1678 NAVY nomination of Jeffrey P. Martin, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 7, 2014.

PN1679 NAVY nomination of Richard D. McCormick, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 7, 2014.

PN1680 NAVY nominations (12) beginning DAVID W. ATWOOD, and ending ANNA H. WOODARD, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 7, 2014.

PN1681 NAVY nomination of William S. Switzer, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 7, 2014.

PN1714 NAVY nomination of Joshua L. Keever, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 15, 2014.

PN1715 NAVY nomination of Rustin J. Dozeman, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 15, 2014.

PN1716 NAVY nomination of Lori L. Cody, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 15, 2014.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume legislative session.

AMENDING THE CLEAN AIR ACT

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to Calendar No. 342.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 724) to amend the Clean Air Act to remove the requirement for dealer certification of new light-duty motor vehicles.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I am pleased the Senate is considering H.R. 724, a bill to remove a redundant paperwork requirement whenever a customer buys a new car.

Every new vehicle must comply with the Clean Air Act when it is manufactured and H.R. 724 will not change this. H.R. 724 simply eliminates an out-of-date requirement that auto dealers provide a piece of paper to each customer to certify that a new car or truck complies with the Clean Air Act's emissions requirements. Information confirming that the vehicle complies with all applicable emission requirements is already available under the hood of the vehicle and on the EPA's website, so providing the certification on a piece of paper is redundant. In addition to removing an unnecessary requirement, H.R. 724 eliminates 15 million pieces of paper that would otherwise be handed out each year with every new vehicle sold.

The bill was authored by Representative GARY PETERS and Representative BOB LATTA and was passed by the House of Representatives on January 8 by a vote of 405–0. I was glad to lead the effort to pass this bill in the Senate. I thank Senator BOXER, who helped ensure timely consideration and unanimous passage of the bill by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. I urge my fellow Senators to pass H.R. 724 so we can send this commonsense bill to the President to become law.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask that H.R. 724 be read a third time and passed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

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

The bill (H.R. 724) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

COLLINSVILLE RENEWABLE ENERGY PRODUCTION ACT

COCONINO NATIONAL FOREST LAND CONVEYANCE

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the following items en bloc: Calendar No. 360, H.R. 862; and Calendar No. 123, H.R. 316.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bills en bloc.

Mr. FLAKE. Madam President, I thank my colleagues for their prompt consideration and passage of H.R. 862, a bill that would authorize the conveyance of 2.67 acres within the Coconino National Forest to landowners who built on those parcels in reliance on an erroneous survey.

On Tuesday, a relatively small 4-acre wildfire started just north of Sedona, AZ, near the Slide Rock State Park. It took less than 24 hours for the Slide Fire, as it is being called, to explode through the overgrown and dry vegetation and make its way up Oak Creek Canyon. In less than 2 days, estimates put the fire at 4,800 acres. Unfortunately, it appears poised to grow larger.

Some areas have already been evacuated and an estimated 3,200 people in the Kachina Village and Forest Highland communities were put on pre-evacuation notice last night. Nearby, the Mountainaire community sits approximately five miles from the fire line. As they watch smoke fill the sky near their homes, residents are preparing for the possibility of having to evacuate. For some of those residents, the imminent fire threat brings added uncertainly due to a longstanding boundary dispute.

The problem stems from an incorrect survey that was completed in 1960. Unbeknownst to the landowners, homes and other improvements were built based on that errant work. In 2007, a subsequent survey revealed the error and a number of landowners were alerted to the fact that portions of their property are within the Coconino National Forest boundary. As a result, these parcels have a cloud on their title that needs to be resolved through a land conveyance.

The Slide Fire has brought the impact of this survey error into further focus. Some of those homeowners have apparently been told by their insurance companies that if the Slide Fire destroys their homes, they will be compensated. However, it is unlikely they will be able to rebuild on the property because of the boundary dispute.

In my view, the least we can do during this difficult time is remove the boundary issue from the litany of concerns these families in the Mountainaire community are dealing with right now. That is why Senator MCCAIN and I sought expedited consideration of H.R. 862 today through the unanimous consent process. This bill, which was introduced by Representatives KIRKPATRICK and GOSAR in the House, would enable the conveyance of the 2.67 acres that are tied up in this longstanding boundary issue to the private landowners.

The House passed this measure in June of last year by a vote of 395–1, and it was favorably reported out of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee by voice vote late last year. The Forest Service has also issued a statement signaling its support for this measure.

I am grateful to my colleagues in the Senate, in particular Senators MCCAIN, LANDRIEU, and MURKOWSKI, for their

support in moving this bill through the Senate today. It provides a much needed sliver of good news for families that are dealing with a significant threat. Likewise, I look forward to working my colleagues to find a path forward to proactively address the catastrophic wildfire situation that continues to plague the West.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment to H.R. 316 be agreed to; that the bills, as amended, where amended, be read a third time and passed en bloc; and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 316 was agreed to, as follows:

H.R. 316

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Collinsville Renewable Energy Production Act''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) COMMISSION.—The term ''Commission'' means the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

(2) LICENSE.—The term ''license'' means—

(A) the license for Commission project number 10822;

(B) the license for Commission project number 10823; or

(C) both.

(3) TOWN.—The term ''Town'' means the town of Canton, Connecticut.

SEC. 3. REINSTATEMENT, EXTENSION, AND TRANSFER OF EXPIRED LICENSES.

Notwithstanding the termination of the license, the Commission may, at the request of the Town, in accordance with section 4(a), and after reasonable notice—

(1) reinstate the licence;

(2) extend for 2 years after the date on which the license is reinstated the time period during which the licensee is required to commence the construction of the project subject to the license; and

(3) subject to section 4, transfer the license to the Town.

SEC. 4. CONDITIONS OF TRANSFER.

(a) APPLICATION FOR TRANSFER.—The Town may request the reinstatement, extension, and transfer of the license by filing an application for approval of the transfer.

(b) CONTENTS OF APPLICATION.—The application for approval of the transfer shall set forth in appropriate detail the qualifications of the Town to hold the license and to operate the property under license, which qualifications shall be the same as those required of applicants for the license.

(c) COMMISSION APPROVAL.—The Commission may approve the transfer on a showing that the transfer is in the public interest.

(d) TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF LICENSES.—The Town shall be subject to—

(1) all the conditions of the license and all the provisions and conditions of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 791a et seq.), as though the Town were the original licensee; and

(2) any additional terms and conditions the Commission determines to be necessary, including conditions for the protection, mitigation, and enhancement of fish and wildlife and related habitat under sections 10(j) and 18 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 803(j), 811).

SEC. 5. ADMINISTRATION.

The Commission shall supplement the environmental impact statement or similar analysis required under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) prepared in connection with the issuance of the original license to examine all new circumstances and information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the reinstatement of the license or the impact of the license.

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill (H.R. 316), as amended, was read the third time and passed.

The bill (H.R. 862) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

EMERGENCY DROUGHT RELIEF ACT OF 2014

NORTH TEXAS INVASIVE SPECIES BARRIER ACT OF 2014

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Environment and Public Works Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4032 and the Senate proceed to its consideration and to the consideration of Calendar No. 344, S. 2198 en bloc.

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

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bills en bloc.

Mr. REID. Madam President, it is my understanding that my request was at this point granted; is that right?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is correct.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Feinstein-Murkowski substitute amendment to S. 2198, which is at the desk, be agreed to, the bills, as amended where applicable, be read a third time and passed en bloc; that a Feinstein-Murkowski amendment to the title of S. 2198, which is at the desk, be agreed to; and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

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

The amendment (No. 3227) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under ''Text of Amendments.'')

The bill (S. 2198), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

The amendment (No. 3228) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To modify the title)

Amend the title to read as follows: ''To direct the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to take actions to provide additional water supplies to the State of California due to drought, and for other purposes.''.

The bill (H.R. 4032) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

AWARDING OF A CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 1726.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1726) to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the 65th Infantry Regiment, known as the Borinqueneers.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times and passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

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

The bill (H.R. 1726) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

GOLD MEDAL TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS ACT OF 2014

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 4488.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4488) to make technical corrections to two bills enabling the presentation of congressional gold medals, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times and passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

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

The bill (H.R. 4488) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration en bloc of the following resolutions, which were submitted earlier today: S. Res. 455, S. Res. 456, S. Res. 457, S. Res. 458, S. Res. 459, S. Res. 460, and S. Res. 461.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

S. RES. 455

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, May is Older Americans Month, and I am pleased to submit a resolution recognizing the importance of our seniors with my colleagues, Senators COLLINS and SANDERS. As of 2012, there were more than 43 million Americans aged 65 and older. By 2060, Americans in this age group are projected to be as many as 92 million, or over 1 in 5 U.S. residents.

In 1963, President John F. Kennedy recognized the first Older Americans Month. By continuing to observe the month of May as Older Americans Month, we remind ourselves not only of our duty to provide for the needs of this population, but also of their ongoing contributions to our communities and to our country.

As chairman of the Senate Aging Committee and the senior Senator from Florida, the State with the largest 65-and-older population in the Nation, I have heard many stories of the enduring contributions made by the aging population. For example, during an Aging Committee hearing earlier this year, we learned that the fastest growth of new entrepreneurs is among Americans ages 55 to 64. For example, Conchy Bretos, from my home State of Florida, leveraged a lifetime of work experience to begin a second career by starting a new business. Not only does her business contribute to the economy and provide a valuable service to seniors in public housing, but it also provides a cost-savings to taxpayers.

As one witness during this hearing noted, we should think about the baby boom generation not as a ''silver tsunami'' but our society's ''silver lining that will be yielding golden dividends.'' Our obligation to them is to ensure their ability to live independently and continue to make these significant impressions on and contributions to our Nation. Our aging Americans can teach younger generations valuable lessons.

In honor of Ms. Bretos and all older Americans, I am pleased to recognize May as Older Americans Month and celebrate the influences and achievements of seniors nationwide.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to; the preambles, where applicable, be agreed to; and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc, with no intervening action or debate.

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

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

PERMITTING USE OF THE ROTUNDA

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Con. Res. 36 submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 36) permitting the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the next of kin or personal representative of Raoul Wallenberg.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

(The concurrent resolution is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

SIGNING AUTHORITY

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that during the adjournment or recess of the Senate from Friday, May 23, through Tuesday, June 3, Senators ROCKEFELLER and REED of Rhode Island be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

APPOINTMENT AUTHORITY

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the upcoming recess or adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President pro tempore, and the majority and minority leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses or by order of the Senate.

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

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, MAY 23 THROUGH MONDAY, JUNE 2, 2014

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn and convene for pro forma sessions only, with no business conducted on the following dates and times, and that following each pro forma session the Senate adjourn until the next pro forma session: Friday, May 25 at 10 a.m., Tuesday, May 27 at 12 noon, and Friday, May 30 at 2 p.m.; and that the Senate adjourn Friday, May 30 until 2 p.m. on Monday, June 2, 2014; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; and that following any leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business until 5:30 p.m. with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each; and that at 5:30 p.m., the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Executive Calendar No. 633 and there be 2 minutes of debate equally divided and controlled in the usual form prior to the cloture vote on the Harper nomination.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. So the next rollcall vote will be at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, June 2.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. REID. Madam 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 6:54 p.m., adjourned until Friday, May 23, 2014, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

BRUCE H. ANDREWS, OF NEW YORK, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF COMMERCE, VICE REBECCA M. BLANK, RESIGNED.

MARCUS DWAYNE JADOTTE, OF FLORIDA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE, VICE NICOLE YVETTE LAMB–HALE, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

MARCIA STEPHENS BLOOM BERNICAT, OF NEW JERSEY, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER–COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH.

JAMES D. PETTIT, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER–COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA.

FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY

LAURA S. WERTHEIMER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY, VICE STEVE A. LINICK, RESIGNED.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate May 22, 2014:

THE JUDICIARY

DAVID JEREMIAH BARRON, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE FIRST CIRCUIT.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

RICHARD G. FRANK, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be brigadier general

COL. WILLIAM P. ROBERTSON

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. ANTHONY G. CRUTCHFIELD

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. JAMES C. MCCONVILLE

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE 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. GREGORY A. BISCONE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER 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. KATHLEEN A. COOK

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS THE DEPUTY JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL OF THE AIR

FORCE AND APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 8037:

To be major general

COL. JEFFREY A. ROCKWELL

IN THE NAVY

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 (lower half)

CAPTAIN BRIAN J. BRAKKE
CAPTAIN RICHARD A. BROWN
CAPTAIN JAMES S. BYNUM
CAPTAIN PETER J. CLARKE
CAPTAIN SCOTT D. CONN
CAPTAIN BRIAN K. COREY
CAPTAIN RICHARD A. CORRELL
CAPTAIN MARC H. DALTON
CAPTAIN COLLIN P. GREEN
CAPTAIN DALE E. HORAN
CAPTAIN MARY M. JACKSON
CAPTAIN JAMES W. KILBY
CAPTAIN ROY I. KITCHENER
CAPTAIN JAMES J. MALLOY
CAPTAIN ROSS A. MYERS
CAPTAIN JEFFREY S. RUTH
CAPTAIN LORIN C. SELBY
CAPTAIN JOHN W. TAMMEN, JR.
CAPTAIN KENT D. WHALEN
CAPTAIN KENNETH R. WHITESELL
CAPTAIN CHARLES F. WILLIAMS
CAPTAIN JESSE A. WILSON, JR.

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. TIMOTHY C. GALLAUDET

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. 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 (lower half)

CAPT. JOHNNY R. WOLFE, JR.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE 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. SAMUEL A. GREAVES

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER 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. WARREN D. BERRY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER 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. JON A. NORMAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 8081:

To be major general

COL. ROOSEVELT ALLEN, JR.

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be brigadier general

COL. RICHARD W. KELLY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE 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. CARLTON D. EVERHART II

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE 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. DARRYL L. ROBERSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE 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. ELLEN M. PAWLIKOWSKI

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. KAREN E. DYSON

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL OF THE AIR FORCE AND FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE SERVING AS THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 8037:

To be lieutenant general

BRIG. GEN. CHRISTOPHER F. BURNE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE 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. MARSHALL B. WEBB

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

LT. GEN. RAYMOND A. THOMAS III

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. THOMAS S. ROWDEN

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 F. KIRBY

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS 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. JON M. DAVIS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS 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. KENNETH F. MCKENZIE, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS 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. ROBERT B. NELLER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS 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. JOHN A. TOOLAN, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. PATRICK J. HERMESMANN
COL. HELEN G. PRATT

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE 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. JAMES M. HOLMES

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF SCOTT A. RABER, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF MARK D. LEVIN, TO BE MAJOR.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JEREMY P. GARLICK AND ENDING WITH DERICK A. SAGER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 10, 2014.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF TONYA Y. WHITE, TO BE MAJOR.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF DANIEL L. ROSERA, TO BE MAJOR.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JASON E. OBRIEN AND ENDING WITH ERIK D. RUDIGER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 10, 2014.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF ROBERT J. TRAINER, TO BE MAJOR.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH KENNETH G. CROOKS AND ENDING WITH JAMES D. TIMS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 7, 2014.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH KIM L. BOWEN AND ENDING WITH DANIEL K. WATERMAN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 7, 2014.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH VICTORIA M. AGLEWILSON AND ENDING WITH DEBORAH L. WILLIS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 7, 2014.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH HEATHER A. BODWELL AND ENDING WITH CHRISTIAN L. WILLIAMS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 7, 2014.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ERICH M. GAUGER AND ENDING WITH TIMOTHY J. ZIELICKE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 15, 2014.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ANTHONY F. FONTENOS AND ENDING WITH VU T. NGUYEN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 15, 2014.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH PETER G. BAILEY AND ENDING WITH KEVIN R. WINDSOR, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 15, 2014.

IN THE ARMY

ARMY NOMINATION OF RANDOLPH S. WARDLE, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF STANLEY F. ZEZOTARSKI, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ERIC S. COMETTE, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF WILLIAM D. SWENSON, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF GREGORY R. SHEPARD, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DAVID F. CAPORICCI AND ENDING WITH ERIC G. WISHART, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 10, 2014.

ARMY NOMINATION OF PHILANDER PINCKNEY, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ELIZABETH JOYCE, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JASMINE T. DANIELS, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JAN S. SUNDE AND ENDING WITH HIMANSHU PATHAK, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 1, 2014.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JOSEPH L. CRAVER, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MARIBETH A. AFFELDT AND ENDING WITH R10045, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 7, 2014.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MIGUEL AGUILAR AND ENDING WITH MARK A. ZINSER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 7, 2014.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JEFFREY M. ABEL AND ENDING WITH DEBORAH A. WILSON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 7, 2014.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH BOBBY L. CHRISTINE AND ENDING WITH JAMES K. MASSENGILL, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 7, 2014.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH RONALD W. BURKETT II AND ENDING WITH BRIAN J. MELTON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 15, 2014.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH WILLIAM B. ALLEN IV AND ENDING WITH JAMES L. ZEPKO, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 9, 2014.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF RICHARD P. OWENS, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF ROBERT M. MANNING, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JAMES P. EDMUNDS III AND ENDING WITH PAUL B. WEBB, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 10, 2014.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH LEONARD F. ANDERSON IV AND ENDING WITH KONSTANTIN E. ZOGANAS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 10, 2014.

IN THE NAVY

NAVY NOMINATION OF WILLIAM A. GARREN, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATION OF LEANDER J. SACKEY, TO BE COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF CHRISTOPHER M. DAVIS, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF CHARLES E. VARSOGEA, TO BE COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF LOUIS J. LAZZARA, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF TARA M. MCARTHUR–MILTON, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATION OF TODD W. BOEHM, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOHN I. ACTKINSON AND ENDING WITH JUSTIN R. WOLFE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 5, 2014.

NAVY NOMINATION OF ROBERT J. POLVINO, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATION OF VICTOR SORRENTINO, TO BE COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF JEFFREY P. MARTIN, TO BE COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF RICHARD D. MCCORMICK, TO BE COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DAVID W. ATWOOD AND ENDING WITH ANNA H. WOODARD, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 7, 2014.

NAVY NOMINATION OF WILLIAM S. SWITZER, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATION OF JOSHUA L. KEEVER, TO BE COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF RUSTIN J. DOZEMAN, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF LORI L. CODY, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HOWARD P. ''BUCK'' McKEON NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4435) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Chair, I strongly support the passage of the Graves amendment, of which I am a cosponsor, to establish a National Commission on the Future of the Army.

Last December, I joined with 142 of my colleagues in expressing to Defense Secretary Hagel my deep concerns about Army cost-saving proposals that would impose draconian cuts on the Army National Guard. Congress rightly rejected similar proposals that would have reduced end strength and force structure for the Air National Guard, and I am pleased that the Armed Services Committee chose to reject such proposals for the Army National Guard too.

I question the wisdom of making such cuts, considering the cost-effectiveness of the Army National Guard as a dual use force, and cost-savings that could be achieved in the Total Army by better leveraging the Operational Reserve. Blending Active and Reserve Component Army units, as the Air Force is doing, could ensure long-term budgetary savings to maintain a robust Total Army. As the Reserve Forces Policy Board (RFPB) has noted, a blended Total Army composition means more combat capability at about one-third the cost.

I believe we need to take a harder look at the future force structure of the Army, which is why a Commission is absolutely necessary. The House should fully consider and be fully informed about how the Army's proposed cuts fit into a long-term national security strategy.

With the operational reserve being rebuilt since September 11, 2001, this generation of Army National Guardsmen and Reservists has proven every bit as effective, committed, and capable as their active counterparts. These men and women have served with distinction and honor overseas, and our Nation cannot afford to lose their service. We must not go blindly down a path that would inhibit our Army's ability to respond to world events and domestic emergencies.

HOWARD P. ''BUCK'' McKEON NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4435) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Chair, I rise today to discuss an important issue facing our troops—primary blast injury and its connection to traumatic brain injury.

TBI has become the ''signature wound'' of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, with 20% soldiers deployed are estimated to have experienced a brain injury. I would like to thank Chairman McKEON and Ranking Member SMITH for their commitment to this issue in recent authorizations.

As Co-Chair and Co-Founder of the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force, I have spent the last thirteen years fighting for patients with brain injuries, both on and off the battlefield. We all know that traumatic brain injury (TBI) is the signature wound of the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, and while we made great progress on ensuring our soldiers have the best care, there is still more work to be done.

The high rate of TBI and blast-related concussion events resulting from current combat operations directly impacts the health and safety of individual service members, and subsequently the level of unit readiness and troop retention. The Department of Defense (DoD) is actively seeking strategies to prevent, mitigate, and treat blast-related injuries, including TBI.

Since I began working on this issue, our knowledge of the brain has expanded at an incredible pace. In recent years, we have made strong investments in TBI research. The DoD's Peer-Reviewed Psychological Health and TBI Research Program conducts extensive research on TBI; however, little is known about primary blast injury and its connection to TBI. Primary blast injury occurs when an explosion generates a blast wave traveling faster than sound and creating a surge of high pressure immediately followed by a vacuum. Studies show that the blast wave shoots through armor and soldiers' skulls and brains, even if it doesn't draw blood. Researchers still do not know the exact mechanisms by which primary blast injuries damages the brain's cells and circuits. However, the blast wave's pressure has been show to compress the torso, impacting blood vessels, which then send damaging energy pulses into the brain. The pressure can also be transferred partially through the skull, interacting with the brain.

My amendment would direct the Department of Defense to conduct a study on blast injury mechanics covering a wide range of primary blast injury conditions, including TBI. Understanding how a primary blast injury affects the brain is imperative to developing appropriate prevention measures, including ensuring proper equipment. I was glad to see this amendment pass the House last night, and I hope that it will be adopted in the final bill after negotiations with the Senate.

CONGRATULATING UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA STUDENTS

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to congratulate the University of Central Florida for winning the 2014 Raytheon National Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition (NCCDC). The competition, held April 25–27 in San Antonio, Texas, brought together the top ten college and university teams from across the country.

More than 180 colleges and universities and 2,000 undergraduate and graduate students participated in competitions leading up to the national championship. The Raytheon competition models real-world scenarios in which teams are required to maintain operational needs of their businesses and user demands amidst cyber attacks. Preparing the next generation of cyber security leaders is critical to defending our nation against ever-increasing threats.

Again, congratulations to the University of Central Florida team for bringing home the Raytheon NCCDC Alamo Cup and establishing the University as a national leader in cyber security.

HOWARD P. ''BUCK'' McKEON NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4435) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Chair, I ask that the following exchange of letters be included as part of the RECORD during consideration of H.R. 4435:

PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE,
Washington, DC, May 9, 2014.

Hon. HOWARD ''BUCK'' MCKEON,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: In recognition of the importance of expediting the passage of H.R. 4435, the ''Fiscal Year 2015 National Defense Authorization Bill,'' the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence hereby waives further consideration of the bill. The Committee has jurisdictional interests in H.R. 4435, including intelligence and intelligence-related authorizations and provisions contained in the bill.

The Committee takes this action only with the understanding that this procedural route should not be construed to prejudice the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence's jurisdictional interest over this bill or any similar bill and will not be considered as precedent for consideration of matters of jurisdictional interest to the Committee in the future, including in connection with any subsequent consideration of the bill by the House. In addition, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence will seek conferees on any provisions of the bill that are within its jurisdiction during any House-Senate conference that may be convened on this legislation.

Finally, I would ask that you include a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter in the Congressional Record during the House debate on H.R. 4435. I appreciate the constructive work between our committees on this matter and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

MIKE ROGERS,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 12, 2014.

Hon. MIKE ROGERS,
Chairman, Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 4435, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015. I agree that the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence has valid jurisdictional claims to certain provisions in this important legislation, and I am most appreciative of your decision not to request a referral in the interest of expediting consideration of the bill. I agree that by foregoing a sequential referral, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence is not waiving its jurisdiction. Further, this exchange of letters will be included in the committee report on the bill.

Sincerely,

HOWARD P. ''BUCK'' MCKEON,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,
Washington, DC, May 9, 2014.

Hon. HOWARD P. ''BUCK'' MCKEON,
Chairman, House Committee on Armed Services, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCKEON: I write to you regarding H.R. 4435, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015. There are certain provisions of this legislation that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Homeland Security.

In the interest of permitting the Committee on Armed Services to proceed expeditiously to the House floor, I will not seek a sequential referral of H.R. 4435. However, I do so only with the mutual understanding that the jurisdiction of the Committee on Homeland Security over matters contained in this or similar legislation is in no way diminished or altered. I further request that you urge the Speaker to name Members of this Committee to any conference committee that is named to consider such provisions.

Finally, I request you include this letter and your response into the committee report on H.R. 4435 and into the Congressional Record. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 12, 2014.

Hon. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 4435, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015. I am most appreciative of your support and interest in this important legislation. Further, this exchange of letters will be included in the committee report on the bill.

Sincerely,

HOWARD P. ''BUCK'' MCKEON,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, May 9, 2014.

Hon. HOWARD ''BUCK'' MCKEON,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCKEON: I write to confirm our mutual understanding regarding H.R. 4435, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015. This legislation contains subject matter within the jurisdiction of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, however in order to expedite floor consideration of this important legislation, the Committee waives consideration of the bill.

The House Committee on Veterans' Affairs takes this action only with the understanding that the committee's jurisdictional interests over this and similar legislation are in no way diminished or altered.

The committee also reserves the right to seek appointment to any House-Senate conference on this legislation and requests your support if such a request is made. Finally, I would appreciate your including this letter in the Congressional Record during consideration of H.R. 4435 on the House Floor. Thank you for your attention to these matters.

With warm personal regards, I am

Sincerely,

JEFF MILLER,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 12, 2014.

Hon. JEFF MILLER,
Chairman, Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 4435, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015. I agree that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs has valid jurisdictional claims to certain provisions in this important legislation, and I am most appreciative of your decision not to request a referral in the interest of expediting consideration of the bill. I agree that by foregoing a sequential referral, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs is not waiving its jurisdiction. Further, this exchange of letters will be included in the committee report on the bill.

Sincerely,

HOWARD P. ''BUCK'' MCKEON,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC, May 9, 2014.

Hon. HOWARD P. ''BUCK'' MCKEON,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCKEON: I am writing to you concerning the jurisdictional interest of the Committee on the Judiciary in matters being considered in H.R. 4435, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015.

Our committee recognizes the importance of H.R. 4435 and the need for the legislation to move expeditiously. Therefore, while we have a valid claim to jurisdiction over the bill, I do not intend to request a sequential referral. This, of course, is conditional on our mutual understanding that nothing in this legislation or my decision to forego a sequential referral waives, reduces, or otherwise affects the jurisdiction of the Judiciary Committee, and that a copy of this letter and your response acknowledging our jurisdictional interest will be included in the Committee Report and as part of the Congressional Record during consideration of this bill by the House.

The Judiciary Committee also asks that you support our request to be conferees on the provisions over which we have jurisdiction during any House-Senate conference.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 12, 2014.

Hon. BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 4435, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015. I agree that the Committee on the Judiciary has valid jurisdictional claims to certain provisions in this important legislation, and I am most appreciative of your decision not to request a referral in the interest of expediting consideration of the bill. I agree that by foregoing a sequential referral, the Committee on the Judiciary is not waiving its jurisdiction. Further, this exchange of letters will be included in the committee report on the bill.

Sincerely,

HOWARD P. ''BUCK'' MCKEON,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, May 9, 2014.

Hon. HOWARD ''BUCK'' MCKEON,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I write to confirm our mutual understanding regarding H.R. 4435, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015. This legislation contains subject matter within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Natural Resources, including:

Sec. 602. No fiscal year 2015 increase in basic pay for general and flag officers

Sec. 611. One-year extension of certain expiring bonus and special pay authorities

Sec. 2841. Land conveyance, Mt. Soledad Veterans Memorial, La Jolla, California

Sec. 2861, Memorial to the victims of the shooting attack at the Washington Navy Yard

Sec. 2864, Designation of Distinguished Flying Cross National Memorial in Riverside, California

Sec. 2865, Renaming site of Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park, Ohio

Sec. 2866, Manhattan Project National Historical Park

Title 29, Subtitle A—Naval Air Station Fallon, Nevada

Sec. 2911, Redesignation of Johnson Valley Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Area, California

Sec. 2921, Elimination of termination date for public land withdrawals and reservations under Military Lands Withdrawal Act of 1999

Title 29, Subtitle D—Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, California

Title 29, Subtitle D—White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico

Sec. xxx, National security considerations for inclusion of federal property on National Register of Historic Places or designation as National Historic Landmark under the National Historic Preservation Act

To expedite floor consideration of this important legislation, and because of the extensive cooperation shown by you and your staff, the Committee will forego seeking a sequential referral of the bill. The Natural Resources Committee takes this action only with the understanding that the Committee's jurisdictional interests over this and similar legislation are in no way diminished or altered.

The Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment to any House-Senate conference on this legislation and requests your support if such a request is made. Finally, I would appreciate your including this letter in the Congressional Record during consideration of H.R. 4435 on the House Floor.

Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

DOC HASTINGS,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 12, 2014.

Hon. DOC HASTINGS,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 4435, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015. I agree that the Committee on Natural Resources has valid jurisdictional claims to certain provisions in this important legislation, and I am most appreciative of your decision not to request a referral in the interest of expediting consideration of the bill. I agree that by foregoing a sequential referral, the Committee on Natural Resources is not waiving its jurisdiction. Further, this exchange of letters will be included in the committee report on the bill.

Sincerely,

HOWARD P. ''BUCK'' MCKEON,
Chairman.

HONORING LTC (RETIRED) NICOLETTE WHEELER

HON. TOM PRICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a constituent of the Sixth District of Georgia, Lieutenant Colonel (retired) Nicolette Wheeler of the U.S. Army. Following a successful career, LTC Wheeler retired from the Army and moved with her husband to Alpharetta, Georgia. In 1995, LTC Wheeler was hired by the Fulton County School System to be the Senior Army Instructor at Roswell High School. In 2001, she was appointed to move to Central Administration to lead all 8 programs as the Director of Army Instruction.

Since being hired, LTC Wheeler has been recognized multiple times for her contributions to students and others: State Rifle Coach of the Year (2000), ''Service Above Self'' Award—Roswell Rotary (2001), JROTC Director of the Year—United States Army Cadet Command (2005), and State Outstanding Career and Technical Educator, JROTC Division (2009 and 2011). However, LTC Wheeler has been so much more than just a distinguished instructor and coordinator for the JROTC during her time in the Fulton County School System. Her students have always been her number one priority. She has been there to provide support and encouragement no matter if a student's ambition is an appointment to a service academy or passing an entrance exam to become a member of the United States Armed Forces.

At the end of this current school year, LTC Wheeler will retire. This is a bittersweet moment for all those students, past and present, whose lives she has dedicated herself to bettering. She has inspired all who have had the opportunity to work with her. Her tireless work on behalf of our community and country, her quiet leadership, and her collaborative spirit has not gone unnoticed and are deeply appreciated. Therefore, it is on behalf of the people of the Sixth District that I want to thank LTC Nicolette Wheeler for her years of outstanding and exemplary service.

HOWARD P. ''BUCK'' MCKEON NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4435) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of language Representative DOUG LAMBORN offered when the Committee on Armed Services marked-up the National Defense Authorization Act.

Like most Americans, I remain concerned about Iran's state sponsorship of terrorism, its horrendous human rights record, its efforts to destabilize its neighbors, its pursuit of intercontinental ballistic missiles, and its threats against our ally, Israel, as well as the fates of American citizens detained by Iran. I remain extremely alarmed by Iran's pursuit of uranium enrichment and plutonium separation efforts. In spite of Iran's statements to the contrary, I am concerned that these materials are in fact part of a nuclear weapons program. The pursuit of nuclear materials under the proclamation of peaceful energy initiatives raises some serious concerns when coming from a country with a terrible human rights record and ties to terrorist groups. It is both a necessity and a priority that the United States ensure that Iran does not have a nuclear weapon.

On November 24, 2013, Iran accepted the terms of an international proposal to temporarily halt further expansion of its nuclear program, in return for relief from economic sanctions. While this proposal would in theory limit Iran's nuclear enrichment program, it does nothing to prevent Iran from pursuing a warhead or nuclear delivery system for a nuclear weapon or curtailing other issues that are threats to U.S. security and the security of our allies. That is why I am supportive of Representative LAMBORN's amendment. This amendment makes it crystal clear, that it is the intent of the United States Congress that the U.S. should only agree to a comprehensive agreement on Iran's nuclear program if Iran ceases uranium enrichment, ceases all of their nuclear, chemical, biological, chemical weapon programs, ballistic missile program, and ballistic launch site technology and Iran has ceased providing support for international terrorist.

The United States government must use every tool possible to deter threats from Iran. Economic sanctions remain an important and necessary tool to deterring aggressive actions. Should the United States provide any relief from these Congressional mandated sanctions, it is imperative that Iran halt all activities that are threatening to our national interests. Mr. LAMBORN's amendment is an important and appropriate addition to the National Defense Authorization Act, and I look forward to seeing it included in law.

CONGRATULATING R.L. TURNER HIGH SCHOOL'S NAVY ROTC FOR THE DISTINGUISHED UNIT AWARD

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate R.L. Turner High School's Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (NJROTC) program, in Carrollton, Texas, for being recognized with the Distinguished Unit Award based on performance and service during the 2013–2014 school year.

The NJROTC Distinguished Unit designation is awarded annually to schools whose program ranks in the top 30 percent of units throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia. Competing units are ranked according to the degree of excellence attained in administration, military proficiency, and host school support. Accordingly, R.L. Turner High School and the Carrollton-Farmers Branch Independent School District have contributed to the strong support and development of the NJROTC program

R.L. Turner High School's NJROTC is a citizen leadership program designed to develop informed and responsible young men and women who embody honor, integrity, loyalty, courage, and respect for authority in a democratic society.

In addition to achieving numerous accolades, the R.L. Turner's NJROTC program, under the leadership of Lieutenant Martin Caro, U.S. Navy (Ret.) and Master Chief Martin Wesley, U. S. Navy (Ret.), is actively involved in service programs throughout the local community. The cadets volunteer for various color guard events, Veterans Day events, and parades. In addition, the NJROTC participates in the March of Dimes, Toys for Tots, and the Dallas Day of Service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in congratulating the R.L. Turner High School's NJROTC program on receiving the Distinguished Unit Award.

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF WASHINGTON, DC YOUTH RUGBY

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the 10th anniversary of the Washington, DC Youth Rugby, a non-profit organization that reaches out to underserved children in the Nation's capital to promote health and physical fitness and teach valuable life skills through the sport of rugby.

In 2004, members of the Washington Rugby Club started out with the goal to teach rugby to a small group of students in Northeast Washington, DC. What started with seven players and a rugby ball has evolved to over a hundred students playing rugby in the District at the youth and high school levels.

Washington, DC Youth Rugby has grown from a summer-only program and is now working to implement rugby programs in DC schools. Washington, DC Youth Rugby founded a boys' team at Calvin Coolidge High School, which ran from 2009–2012. This year, the organization has started both boys' and girls' rugby teams at Bell Multicultural High School and is looking to start more programs in DC schools. They are currently working with both Washington Latin and Ballou.

The program continues to be free to all children and has a diverse mix of participants, both racially and socioeconomically. This program makes a difference to the youth of our city in terms of health, self-esteem, teamwork and social skills development.

In 2012, the program welcomed the support of the Honorable Kim Beazley, the Australian Ambassador to the United States, as the honorary patron. The Ambassador recognizes the value of sport in international relations and the positive impact a game like rugby can have on young people. In recognition of the 10th anniversary, the Embassy of Australia will host a celebration on Thursday, May 29, 2014.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in thanking the coaches, volunteers, donors, partner schools, students, parents, and alumni as we celebrate the 10th anniversary of Washington, DC Youth Rugby and its many accomplishments.

HOWARD P. ''BUCK'' McKEON NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4435) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, I thank Chairman MCKEON and Ranking Member SMITH for their work on this bill and their devotion to the men and women of the Armed Forces.

I also thank them for including in En Bloc Amendment No. 1 the Jackson Lee-Wilson-Lee Amendment, which makes three important contributions to the bill:

1. First, it strongly condemns the ongoing violence and the systematic gross human rights violations against the people of Nigeria carried out by the militant organization Boko Haram, especially the kidnapping of the more than 200 young schoolgirls kidnapped from the Chibok School by Boko Haram;

2. Second, it expresses support for the people of Nigeria who wish to live in a peaceful, economically prosperous, and democratic Nigeria; and

3. Third, it requires that not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment, the Secretary of Defense shall report to Congress on the nature and extent of the crimes against humanity committed by Boko Haram in Nigeria.

Since 2013, more than 4,400 men, women, and children have been slaughtered by Boko Haram.

The victims include Christians, Muslims, journalists, health care providers, relief workers and schoolchildren.

I am confident that the international community working with the African Union will assist the Government of Nigeria in bringing an end to Boko Haram's reign of terror and ensuring that its crimes against humanity are documented so its leaders can be held accountable.

Mr. Chair, I ask unanimous consent to include in the RECORD a letter to President Obama from myself and 15 House colleagues commending his decision to deploy American security experts and equipment in Nigeria to help locate and rescue the more than 200 Nigerian kidnapped schoolgirls and to work in concert with the Government of Nigeria and the African Union to bring Abubakar Shekau and other leaders of Boko Haram to justice.

The Jackson Lee-Wilson-Lee Amendment affirms that the United States stands with the civilized world in solidarity with the people of Nigeria.

The Jackson Lee-Wilson-Lee Amendment affirms that the United States is fully committed to the fundamental principle that women everywhere have a right to be free, to live without fear, and should not be forced to risk their lives to get the education they want and deserve.

I thank the Chairman and Ranking Member for including this amendment in En Bloc Amendment #1 and all Members to support it.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

Washington, DC, May 8, 2014.

President BARACK OBAMA

The White House, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: We are writing to commend your decision to deploy American security experts and equipment in Nigeria to help locate and rescue the more than 200 Nigerian schoolgirls kidnapped by the terrorist group, Boko Haram. We support your action and we strongly urge you to work in concert with the Government of Nigeria and the African Union to achieve this objective and to bring Abubakar Shekau and other leaders of Boko Haram to justice.

Boko Haram, a militant group designated by the State Department in November 2013 as a Foreign Terrorist Organization, has been conducting a reign of terror against innocent Nigerian women, children, and men since 2009, when it killed hundreds of persons during a raid of a police station in Maiduguri. In the last four years, Boko Haram has carried out more than 480 violent attacks against a broad array of targets: Christian and Muslim communities, government installations, schools, hospitals and medical facilities, aid workers and journalists. Since the beginning of 2013, more than 4,400 innocent persons have been killed and thousands more left homeless.

According to media reports, the leader of Boko Haram has threatened to ransom or sell the girls into the human trafficking market for about twelve dollars each ($12.00 USD). This outrageous conduct cannot be tolerated or overlooked. Not only is it a violation of the girls' human rights, it is also contrary to United States policy supporting and promoting equal access to education and economic opportunity for women and girls.

We know that terrorist groups cannot operate effectively without reliable and steady funding to support its criminal acts. Therefore, we urge you to work with the international community to detect, disrupt, and dismantle the funding networks financing Boko Haram, which published reports indicate has received as much as $70 million from other Islamist groups, including Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) and Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsular (AQAP), the Al Muntada Trust Fund, and the Islamic World Society.

Additionally, we urge you to consider working with the Government of Nigeria to develop its own capacity to deploy specialized police and army units rapidly to rescue the schoolgirls and bring Boko Haram leader Abubakar Shekau to justice. Such units also can be deployed to prevent and combat sectarian violence in cities and around the country where there has been a history of sectarian violence. The creation of an elite highly-trained rapid response unit would appear to be a sound short-term strategy that the Government of Nigeria should employ in dealing with violent groups like Boko Haram. This approach was used to successful effect by the Indonesia Government in 2004 to neutralize the Laskar Jihad terrorist organization.

Finally, we call upon you to take appropriate action to help the Government of Nigeria establish a Victim's Fund to provide humanitarian relief and economic assistance to the victims of attacks by Boko Haram so that they can rebuild their lives and communities.

''People are the great issue of the 20th century,'' declared, then-Senator Hubert Humphrey in 1948. The well-being of people remains the great issue of the 21st century. And there is no better measure of any society than the way its treats its women and girls. Boko Haram understands that when Nigerian girls are educated, Nigerian women can succeed; and when Nigerian women succeed, Nigeria succeeds. And that is why it is so important that the United States help Nigeria ensure that Boko Haram fails.

Thank you for your leadership and your consideration of our recommendations. We stand ready to work with you to bring about the safe rescue of the kidnapped Nigerian schoolgirls and to reunite them with their families and loved ones.

Sincerely,

LIST OF SIGNATORIES

Marcia L. Fudge, Karen E. Bass, Donald Payne, Jr., John Lewis, Yvette D. Clarke, Robin Kelly, Janice Hahn, Sheila Jackson

Lee, Terri A. Sewell, Corrine Brown, Frederica Wilson, Gregory W. Meeks, Barbara Lee, Marc Veasey, Members of Congress.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am writing to inform the House of Representatives how I would have voted had I been able to be present in the House on Monday May 19, 2014 and on Tuesday May 20, 2014. I was unavoidably absent, and instead in my Congressional District in Georgia, due to Georgia's Federal Primary Election day being Tuesday May 20, 2014.

With that said, this is how I would have cast my votes on rollcall votes before the House.

Monday May 19, 2014:

Rollcall 218, on H.R. 2203, To provide for the award of a gold medal on behalf of Congress to Jack Nicklaus—"yea."

Rollcall 219, on H.R. 685, To award a Congressional Gold Medal to the American Fighter Aces, collectively—"yea."

Tuesday May 20, 2014:

Rollcall 220, on the Conference Report to H.R. 3080—Water Resources Reform and Development Act—"yea."

Rollcall 221, on H.R. 3530—Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act—"yea."

Rollcall 222, on H.R. 4225—Stop Advertising Victims of Exploitation (SAVE) Act—"nay."

WEST POINT GRADUATES

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to congratulate Michigan's United States Military Academy class of 2014 for completing the demanding requirements of West Point. They will soon receive their commission as 2nd Lieutenants in the U.S. Army and go on to serve our great nation, protecting American national security interests throughout the world. Their commitment to the Army and this country is admirable.

As a former officer in the United States Army, I commend them on this outstanding accomplishment. I take great pride in seeing Americans, young men and women like them, choose such a demanding, honorable path.

I wish them nothing but continued success and congratulate them again on achieving such a momentous accomplishment.

LIST OF CADETS GRADUATING FROM THE U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY AT WEST POINT ON MAY 28, 2014

Andrew E. Carlson, Troy; Andrew R. Fanko, Perry; Andrew J. Lee, Novi; April C. Emerson, Stanwood; Benjamin M. Miller, Clinton Twp.; Benjamin E. Schiff, Lakeville; Brenden A. Plancon, Charlevoix; Cabot M. Howell, Birmingham; Calla E. Glavin, Birmingham; Devon J. Compeau, Oakland; Garrett T. Kastl, Hope; Ian M. Brambs, Farmington Hills; Jacob T. Gleason, Warren; James M. DiMilia, Northville.

John G. Buckle, Northville; Justin W. Haggerty, Belleville; Kyle A. Maxwell, Romeo; Matthew J. Hoff, Portage; Matthew A. Thompson, Ann Arbor; Paul P. Hancock IV, Dearborn; Peter T. Noreen, Cedar Springs; Quetzalcoatl S. Carrassco, Ypsilanti; Ricardo J. Galindo,, Farmington Hills; Rita I. Snyder, Rockford; Thomas A. White, Ann Arbor; Emily N. Clemons, Grosse Ile; Joshua P. Herbeck, Ann Arbor; Charles M. Kelly, Birmingham; Morgan K. White, Monroe.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF JOE INFAUSTO

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Joe Infausto as he retires after 43 years of public service as a police reserve officer. Joe's commitment and dedication to serving his community deserves to be commended.

Joe began his career in law enforcement in 1970 with the Clovis Police Department Auxiliary Unit. In 1977, he received a Bachelor's of Science degree in Criminology from California State University, Fresno. That same year, Joe was transferred to the Fresno Police Department Reserve Unit where he served for thirty-six years.

As a reserve officer, Joe was a citizen volunteer who donated his time and energy to help make Fresno a better place. Throughout his law enforcement career, Joe received numerous commendations for his service and professionalism, including achieving the rank of Lieutenant in 1999.

Joe's dedication to the security of his community was not only exemplified through his service but also through the establishment of his small business, BESTEC Security in 1983. BESTEC Security provided state of the art security systems and equipment to individuals and families throughout the Central Valley for 23 years. Joe sold the business in 2006 and continued to serve as a Fresno Police Department Reserve Officer.

Prior to leaving the Reserve Unit, Joe was assigned to the Mounted Unit, where he continued to carry out his duty to protect and serve the citizens of Fresno while on horseback.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Joe Infausto as he celebrates his retirement from the Fresno Police Reserve Unit.

HONORING STRAIGHT "A" STUDENTS AT ROACH MIDDLE SCHOOL

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a group of bright, dedicated, and dynamic students at Roach Middle School. These students worked hard and earned "All A's" during the 2013–2014 school year. The effort and hard work behind these stellar letter grades is a testament to the student's dedication to excellence and their superior educators.

I believe the most precious gifts we can give to our children are loving families and a good education. These two things together make up the backbone to a young person's success and when we see our kids succeed, we too succeed. I thank Roach Middle School parents, teachers and faculty for the time, energy, and effort they invest in our young leaders daily.

At a young age, these students are striving for a brighter future with more opportunities to discover their passions and reach their fullest potential. It gives me great pride to know that an exceptional education with life-long values is being taught at Roach Middle School. Their success is not only a tribute to their commitment to education but also to the support they receive from their family and teachers.

Mr. Speaker, I commend these dedicated students, whose names are listed below, and I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating them on their achievement, and to encourage them in their future endeavors. Keep up the good work!

God Bless you and I salute you.

Aloki Ajmera, Shoshana Ambers, Rishika Balreddygari, Meredith Beck, Avery Braune, Makenna Carlson, Tayah Chece, Aaron Cheung, Emily Chilton, Isabel Daniel, Paulina Delgadillo, Cambria Dyess, Ashton Eades, Brooke Friedman, Megan Gallacher, Kristine Gauch, Yashna Gongal, Danna Gonzalez-Pedroza, Sheza Habib, Emma Hackley.

Alexandria Hayes, Bailey Jarrett, Shrita Jayanthi, Simran Kakkar, Amanda Kampe, Krishna Karur, Alexis King, Aranya Krishnan, Samyuktha Kumar, Judy Lee, Grace Li, Jeffrey Li, Arturo Martinez, Alex McEachem, Emma Nalbantov, Shubhi Nanda, Isabelle Ong, Marianne Pugh, Sophia Quiroz, Isha Rajupet.

Anne Remorca, Reece Riherd, Ryan Sanders, Isabella Sclunich, Sophia Schmich, Alexandra Shrauner, Abbey Sprick, Sofia Torres, Kerry Tu, Karthik Tummala, Lillian Vukin, Rosie Wang, Jessica Wu.

HONORING GUNNER'S MATE RANDOLPH (RANDY) F. JONES

HON. TOM PRICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a constituent of the Sixth District of Georgia, former Gunner's Mate Randolph (Randy) F. Jones. Born on June 3, 1924 in Phoenix City, Alabama, Randy was raised on a farm during the Great Depression. Due to the hard times, Randy and his family moved to Talbot County, Georgia, where his grandfather maintained a farm where corn, peanuts, sweet potatoes, soy beans and cotton were grown. Moving to Warm Springs, Georgia, in 1942, Randy soon got a job as a grocery clerk at the Warm Springs Foundation. Warm Springs is famous nationally as the location frequented by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt for his treatment for polio.

His initial time at Warm Springs did not last long, as Randy enlisted in the Navy near the end of 1942 while the nation fought the Second World War. During this time, he served as a Gunner's Mate on the Destroyer U.S.S.

Swanson. His tour of duty took him around the globe and included the Mediterranean, the Pacific and the Atlantic. Randy was discharged in 1946.

After serving his nation, Randy returned to his job in Warm Springs. While there, he met the love of his life, Sarah Leverett. They were happily married for 46 years until she passed away in 1993. Randy has two children, seven grandchildren, and one great-grandson.

Randy worked at the Warm Springs foundation for 47 years. During the time he was there, Randy worked as a grocery store clerk and manager, food buyer, chef, purchasing agent and even managed a golf course in his spare time. Additionally, he served on the county school board for 10 years.

Currently residing at the Elmcroft of Roswell Senior Living Community, Randy has continued to attend to the needs of his friends and neighbors. For three years running, Randy has been voted by his peers as Valentine King. He currently is President of ''The Elmcroft Elder Statesman.''

On June 3 of this year, Randy will celebrate his 90th birthday. For all of his years of service to our community and nation, the people of Georgia's Sixth District sincerely thank him.

TRIBUTE TO AMBASSADOR KENNETH M. QUINN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Ambassador Kenneth M. Quinn for being named the twenty-third recipient of the Iowa Award by Iowa Governor Terry Branstad. This is a remarkable and well-deserved achievement for one of the finest citizens in Iowa's 168 year history.

The Iowa Award is the highest citizen award attainable from our great state. Established in 1948 by Governor Robert Blue and the Iowa Legislature, the Iowa Centennial Memorial Foundation bestows the Iowa Award approximately every half decade though a self-financed event. The foundation was created ''to encourage and recognize the outstanding service of Iowans'' in numerous fields and to recognize the ''merit of their accomplishments in Iowa and throughout the United States.''

Knowing Ambassador Quinn and counting him as a close friend, I can think of no more deserving Iowan to be formally recognized for his service to our state, nation, and world as a whole. Kenneth will formally join this elite class of Iowans, including President Herbert Hoover, Dr. James Van Allen, Vice President Henry Wallace, and Dr. Norman Borlaug, when Governor Branstad presents Ambassador Quinn with the Iowa Award at the World Food Prize Hall of Laureates in Des Moines later this month.

Mr. Speaker, I have lauded Ambassador Quinn's astounding biography, service, philanthropy, and heroism previously in this hallowed chamber and I am privileged to reiterate that sentiment today. Ambassador Quinn has dedicated his life and his talents to assisting those in all corners of the globe and words cannot express the extent of his positive impact left on his colleagues, the State of Iowa, and countless individuals around the world. It has been one of the greatest honors of my career to represent and assist Kenneth in all that he does and his selection by Governor Branstad to receive the Iowa Award is affirmation that I am far from alone in my effusive praise and appreciation. I invite my fellow Members of Congress to join me in thanking Ambassador Quinn for his decades of unwavering service and to congratulate him as the people of Iowa proudly count him among our state's most storied and influential citizens.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF ELAINE JANSON

HON. KEVIN McCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Elaine Janson, a true leader in our community who has served China Lake for over thirty years and the past ten years of her life to the students of the Sierra Sands Unified School District in California.

Receiving her Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration and a Masters in Public Administration from California State University, Bakersfield, Elaine began work as a clerk for the Naval Air Weapons Station (NAWS) China Lake, located in Ridgecrest, California. In 1974, she became an administrative officer in the School of Education and the Department of Physics at the University of Southern California, but returned to NAWS China Lake in 1978 to head the Corporate Budget Division in the Office of the Comptroller where she was responsible for formulating and executing the base's budget of $1 billion.

Through the Office of General Counsel, Elaine founded the Commercial Applications and Transfer Office, which was responsible for negotiating patent license agreements, as well as cooperative research and development agreements. She was awarded the Commander's Award in 1993 for these efforts. She negotiated landmark agreements in both the intellectual property and educational partnership areas as well for NAWS. Elaine is also a founding member of the NAWS Business Development Office, which works to expand the base's work and bring additional jobs and business to our community. During this period, she was a founding member of the China Lake Chapter of the American Society of Military Comptroller, serving as its Vice President, and has been members of multiple other organizations, including the Federal Laboratory Consortium, the Technology Transfer Society and the Association of University Technology Managers. Not only did Elaine dedicate time serving NAWS, she also plays a leadership role in the Ridgecrest community, serving on the Ridgecrest United Way of California board and the Indian Wells Valley Concert Association. She retired after 33 years in Federal service with the United States Navy, but Elaine's passion for service did not end there.

Elaine has spent the last ten years with Sierra Sands Unified School District where she began in 2003 as the Chief Financial Officer. Later, she moved on to serve as the school district's Assistant Superintendent for Business and Assistant Superintendent for Construction. Over the period of her tenure, she not only oversaw the district budget, but also supervised maintenance and operations, transportation, food service, and warehouse departments. Her work with Superintendent Joanna Rummer also helped secure significant Federal funds to replace Murray Middle School and modernize Burroughs High School to ensure our students are able to obtain a world-class education in modern buildings. Additionally, during a period in which the entire nation experienced one of the worst economic climates, Sierra Sands Unified School District remained fiscally solvent and maintained the integrity of its outstanding academic programs.

If anything personifies Elaine's service, it is her passionate advocacy for her students in the school district. I have enjoyed working with Elaine to promote Sierra Sands Unified School District, its students, and our Ridgecrest community. I will miss our frequent visits and the See's Candies that Elaine always brings with her, but I know she is looking forward to spending more time with her husband, James, and their 14 children and grandchildren. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a grateful community, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Elaine for her outstanding service and wishing her a happy retirement as she begins this next chapter of her life.

HOWARD P. ''BUCK'' MCKEON NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4435) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. GRAYSON. Madam Chair, I rise to thank Chairman MCKEON and Ranking Member SMITH for agreeing to include three of my amendments into this en bloc package. Those amendments are numbered ''43'', ''81'', and ''140'', respectively.

Grayson Amendment No. 43 will reinsert a worthwhile provision from the introduced version of H.R. 4435, requested by the Department of Defense, that was omitted from the bill text marked up in committee.

This amendment provides the authority and discretion necessary to return personal property that is retained as evidence in connection with an investigation into a sexual assault involving a member of the Armed Forces.

After the conclusion of all legal, adverse action, and administrative proceedings related to an incident, should a victim desire to have certain personal belongings returned to him or her, our Armed Forces will now have the ability to fulfill that request.

As we all know, one of the primary goals of the American judicial system is to produce outcomes that will ''make the victim whole.'' Sometimes, Madam Chair, one important thing that we can offer a victim is to return items that he or she may cherish, which may have

been confiscated as evidence during the course of an investigation.

Let me be clear—this amendment is not intended to provide any new privileges to any perpetrator of a sexual assault. I am offering this amendment today to provide victims an opportunity to reclaim those items that are important to them.

It was good policy when this bill was introduced, and it is good policy now.

Grayson Amendment No. 81 will prohibit the Department of Defense from contracting with entities convicted of using ''Made in America'' labels fraudulently.

The current law governing this issue can be found at 10 U.S.C. 2410f. It states very clearly that if a person is convicted of intentionally affixing a label bearing a ''Made in America'' inscription, then the Secretary of Defense has the discretion not to debar that person from contracting with the Department of Defense.

Madam Chair, if we are going to put laws on the books to address an issue, they should mean something. We, the Members of this body, should make our intent clear. If someone purposely misrepresents an item as being ''Made in America'', and he is convicted of that crime—he does not get the benefit of securing contracts with our Armed Forces.

My amendment accomplishes that goal. It requires debarment of the entities outlined above, while at the same time allowing the Secretary of Defense a narrow national security exception, which should be used only in the most extreme circumstances.

This amendment makes good sense. It protects American businesses, and appropriately punishes those who have the audacity to claim that a product has been ''Made in America'' when it has not.

I'd be remiss at this time, if I did not thank my good friend, Representative CAROL SHEA-PORTER from the great state of New Hampshire. She has been discussing the idea of this amendment with me at least since February, and she was integral in its drafting and securing the support of her colleagues on the House Armed Services Committee. For that I am grateful—thank you again, Representative SHEA-PORTER for all of your hard work in support of this amendment.

Finally, Madam Chair, Grayson Amendment No. 140 will extend the current United States Space Protection Strategy by an additional five-year period—until 2030.

In the 2008 NDAA, Congress required that a greater priority be put on the protection of national security space systems. It directed the Secretary of Defense, in conjunction with the Director of National Intelligence, to develop a strategy for the development of capabilities that are necessary to ensure freedom of action in space for the United States.

The strategy, which is outlined in the notes to 10 U.S.C. 2271, is required to cover fiscal years 2008 through 2013; 2014 through 2019; and 2020 through 2025. My amendment, recognizing that the first five-year covered period has lapsed, simply requires an additional five-year period—2026 through 2030.

I am proud that this amendment will still be in force when my nine-year-old sons have grown into adults. This amendment will protect not just the United States' position in space, but also their physical well-being.

Madam Chair, again, I thank Chairman MCKEON and Ranking Member SMITH for agreeing to include all three of these amendments in this en bloc package. I believe these amendments make America not only a safer place, but a better place.

RECOGNIZING LT. COL. JOHN J. MCCARTHY

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, Lt. Col. John J. McCarthy retired from the United States Marine Corps in 1975 after 29 years of outstanding service and leadership. He is the recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross, which was awarded to him in 1969 citing his courage, superior airmanship and unwavering devotion to duty in the face of great personal danger in Vietnam. He also was awarded the Bronze Star and 19 Air Medals. Lt. Col. McCarthy was 17 years old when he joined the United States Navy in 1946, subsequently earning a college degree from Temple University. Because of his long-standing interest in flying, in 1952 he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps and entered flight school. In 1964, he was deployed to Vietnam, where he flew 180 missions. He would return to Vietnam in 1968 as the commanding officer at Chu-Lai and flew another 130 combat missions. He will be honored by his fellow members of the Jesse W. Soby American Legion Post, 148 in his home County of Bucks, Pennsylvania, on Memorial Day, 2014—a ceremony he will attend in full uniform. It is with deep gratitude that we acknowledge the exemplary service of a courageous leader who has honorably served his country and set an example for others to follow.

DC BLACK PRIDE

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, once again, I am proud to join DC Black Pride, as I have since its beginnings on Banneker Field. This Memorial Day weekend, May 23th–25th, marks the 24th annual DC Black Pride celebration in Washington, D.C.

DC Black Pride 2014 is a multi-day festival featuring: an opening reception; community town hall meetings; educational workshops; a poetry slam; a film festival; a church service; and performances by musicians, dancers, and other artists at the Cultural Arts/Health and Wellness Expo, the culminating event of DC Black Pride. DC Black Pride is widely considered to be one of the world's preeminent Black Pride celebrations, drawing more than 30,000 people to the nation's capital from across the United States as well as from Canada, the Caribbean, South Africa, Great Britain, France, Germany, and the Netherlands.

As the very first Black Pride festival, DC Black Pride fostered the beginning of the Center for Black Equity (formerly known as the International Federation of Black Prides, Inc. and the ''Black Pride Movement,'' which now consists of 40 Black Prides on four continents.

Black Lesbian and Gay Pride Day, Inc., the celebration's organizing body, chose ''I AM Pride'' as the theme for this year's celebration. This theme reflects the connectedness of the Black Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) community and its commitment to fulfilling the mission of DC Black Pride, which is to increase awareness of and pride in the diversity of LGBT Blacks. Moreover, the theme expresses the resolve of the African-American LGBT community and its allies to come together to: fight for LGBT equality; celebrate its heritage and culture as members of both the Black and LGBT communities; and promote health and wellness for the community.

DC Black Pride is a project of the Center for Black Equity and is coordinated by Earl D. Fowlkes, Jr. and Kenya Anthony Hutton with assistance from Andrea Woody-Macko, Robert ''Harold'' Dinkins and dozens of volunteers.

I ask the House to join me in welcoming all attending the 24th annual DC Black Pride celebration in Washington, D.C., and I take this opportunity to remind the celebrants that United States citizens who reside in Washington, D.C. are taxed without full voting representation in Congress.

HOWARD P. ''BUCK'' MCKEON NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4435) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support my commonsense amendment included in En Bloc Amendment #7 that would express the Sense of Congress that active duty military personnel who live in or are stationed in Washington, DC should be exempt from existing District of Columbia firearms restrictions.

It is no secret that the District of Columbia has historically had some of the most restrictive firearm regulations in the nation even after the victory for Second Amendment rights in the 2008 ruling by the Supreme Court in District of Columbia v. Heller. With approximately 40,000 service men and women across all branches of the Armed Forces either living in or stationed on active duty within the Washington, DC metropolitan area, these individuals are subject to the very laws of the District of Columbia that make the lawful possession of firearms nearly impossible.

Mr. Chair, my amendment would recognize that the DC handgun law, especially in regard to trained service men and women, punishes individuals well-equipped to protect themselves and others while emboldening perpetrators of violent crime. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this amendment.

HOWARD P. ''BUCK'' McKEON NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4435) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Chair, I rise today in strong support of the McMorris Rodgers/Bishop amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act. As co-chairs of the Congressional Military Family Caucus, we are committed to supporting military families. Our amendment highlights a growing issue for military spouses: that of unemployment and underemployment.

Military spouses face a unique lifestyle marked by frequent moves, increased family responsibility during deployments, and limited career opportunities in certain geographic locations. These circumstances make it especially tough for those who want to build a portable career that matches their skills, including their education and experience.

According to a recent DoD survey, the unemployment rate for civilians married to a military member is 25 percent—and climbs to 33 percent for spouses of junior enlisted members. In contrast, the average unemployment rate for individuals 20 years and over is 6.1 percent. A recent Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)/Institute for Veterans and Military Families' (IVMF) Military Spouse Employment Report looked beyond unemployment, finding that 9 out of 10 female military spouses who are employed possess more formal education or experience than is needed in their current position. Many spend years obtaining a degree or developing an area of expertise, only to find that they must be relicensed or recertified each time they move across state lines. For medical professionals, nurses, attorneys, teachers, and numerous others, the financial and emotional burden is too much. Their circumstances make it difficult to build a retirement fund, or get the promotion or tenure they would obtain in civilian life.

DoD has demonstrated its commitment to helping military spouses obtain employment by establishing several programs, including the Military Spouse Employment Partnership (MSEP), a computer portal that connects companies with military spouses seeking employment. Since MSEP's launch in June 2011, more than 61,000 military spouses have obtained jobs through the program. DoD presently collects data on the number of businesses participating in MSEP and the number of military spouses placed in a job through the program. However, information is not available on the types of jobs obtained and whether they are commensurate with an applicant's experience or education.

Our amendment would require DoD to begin gathering this data, which will equip us to better address the complex employment challenges of military spouses.

I applaud DoD for its significant progress in addressing military spouse unemployment. Yet, we have a continuing responsibility to make sure our programs are as effective as possible. I urge my colleagues to support our amendment to enhance efforts to address military spouse unemployment and underemployment.

IN RECOGNITION OF KATHLEEN McDERMOTT'S RETIREMENT

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Kathleen J. McDermott, the Executive Director of the Montachusett Opportunity Council, Inc. (MOC) a $17 million anti-poverty community action agency serving North Central Massachusetts. After many many years of dedicated service, Kathy will be enjoying a well-earned retirement.

MOC does incredible work. Their mission is to alleviate poverty and create healthy communities by providing services, coordinating community resources that promote self-sufficiency and advocating for social change. Last year, MOC provided services in 30 communities and served over 20,000 individuals

Prior to becoming Executive Director, Kathy was the agency's Director of Administration and Finance. During her tenure the agency has developed many new initiatives. MOC is known for addressing the changing needs of the community by planning strategically, using new approaches and collaborating with community partners to build a more vibrant community. Programs the agency administers include Asset Development, ChildCare and Head Start, Youth Services, Education, Training and Employment, Wellness and Nutrition Services, Energy Conservation, Housing, Elder Services, Homelessness Services and Neighborhood Development.

Kathy was instrumental in the establishment of the Community Health Connections Family Health Center, a federally funded health center with sites in Fitchburg, Leominster and Gardner and served as its first President of the Board of Directors.

When Kathy officially retires on August 1st, MOC will have big shoes to fill. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in congratulating Kathy on her retirement and wishing her the very best in the years ahead.

HOWARD P. ''BUCK'' McKEON NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4435) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Chair, in 2011, all of New York's Chinatown suffered a profound loss when Private Danny Chen died in Afghanistan. We did not lose this young man through combat with the enemy. Rather, Danny passed away after enduring horrific abuse and hazing at the hands of others in his unit. After months of being forced to do push-ups while holding water in his mouth, being kicked, called racial slurs and having rocks thrown at him, Danny died while on guard duty.

One of the great tragedies of this case is that Danny's superiors—both enlisted troops and officers—were either complicit with his hazing or turned a blind eye, allowing his abuse to continue. We have to wonder, if Danny Chen had somewhere to turn whether he would still be alive today. If someone else in Danny's unit had been able to speak out—without fear of repercussions—might things have ended differently? Would Danny's parents, Szu Chen and Yao Ten, still have their son?

Unfortunately, hazing remains too common in the military—and often goes unreported. By requiring every branch of the military to establish a tip line where these incidents could be reported, this amendment would help create a zero-tolerance environment for hazing. Not only will this provide help for the servicemember suffering abuse, but it can serve as a powerful deterrent. When potential bullies know inappropriate behavior can be anonymously and safely reported, they will be more cautious.

Madam Chair, no family should have to endure what the Chens have. The brave men and women who serve our Nation risk everything on our behalf. We owe it to them to ensure they operate in a professional environment where everyone is afforded dignity and respect, regardless of background. I urge my colleagues to vote yes on the amendment.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CERTIFY IT ACT

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to be a voice for the employees and owners of small businesses across the United States. The working class men and women who are struggling to make ends meet and who are on the front lines on the war against rising health care costs deserve to know the truth about Obamacare. The truth is Obamacare is hurting small businesses and their employees. Health care costs are rising and Obamacare is causing the problem rather than solving it.

To shed some light on increased health care costs and their impact on America's middle class, I am introducing the Certify It Act. This bill requires the Comptroller General of the United States to annually study, for five years, the impact the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) will have on small business jobs and health care insurance premiums.

This bill would also provide for a one-year delay of the employer mandate, the cornerstone of Obamacare, should the Comptroller General or the Office of Actuary at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

(CMS), determine that Obamacare is causing a net employment loss among small businesses or caused small group health care insurance premiums to rise. Comptroller General would be required to conduct this study every year and the employer mandate would be delayed for every negative finding. In addition, should the Comptroller General or CMS fail to submit a report as specified by this bill, the employer mandate will not apply for the following calendar year.

It is time for the Administration to be honest with the American people. It is time to protect our working class men and women who are going to feel the most negative impacts of Obamacare. The Certify It Act will prove once and for all that Obamacare causes job loss for small business and increases costs to small business health care. Mr. Speaker, it is time to protect the people and increase jobs.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. BILL FLORES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4031, The Department of Veterans Affairs Management Accountability Act of 2014. This bill would give the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA) complete authority to fire or demote senior leaders based on performance.

This bill originated from an increasing amount of evidence supporting a lack of management accountability in the department's efforts to curb the disability benefits backlog. Now with the devastating discovery of a growing number of preventable deaths at VA medical centers across the country, this legislation has become more essential.

The department is failing to do its primary job, which is to provide the best health care and benefit services to our veterans. Sadly, the recent reports of mismanagement at VA medical centers only add to the growing list of problems that have plagued the VA. It is time that underperforming senior leaders are held accountable and punished for their poor performance, as opposed to the status quo of ignoring mismanagement practices and rewarding misconduct. Our nation's heroes deserve better.

With the passage of H.R. 4031, this bill would allow for the VA secretary to cut through the mounds of red tape to discipline and remove senior leaders. As an original cosponsor of the bill, I was pleased to see the House take action and pass it with an overwhelming majority. By giving the secretary the direct authority to reprimand leaders it sends a clear message that mismanagement will no longer be tolerated.

The culture at the VA has clearly lost its way and is in need of leadership that can bring back the focus towards its core values of Integrity, Commitment, Advocacy, Respect and Excellence. These core values have been ignored for too long. It is time to put the interests of America's veterans ahead of the interests of federal bureaucrats so that we keep our promises to the brave men and women who have protected so much for our freedom and liberty.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE NICARAGUAN CULTURAL COMMITTEE ''JOSE DE LA CRUZ MENA''

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Nicaraguan Cultural Committee ''Jose de la Cruz Mena,'' and salute them for the wonderful cultural efforts they are producing for the residents of the City of Los Angeles.

Founded in 2010, the Nicaraguan Cultural Committee ''Jose de la Cruz Mena'' is a small but dedicated organization committed to raising awareness on the traditions and customs of Nicaraguans who reside in the City of Los Angeles.

Since music is fundamental to Nicaraguan culture and spirit, the committee opted to be named after Jose de la Cruz Mena, a pioneering artist who was the first to introduce classical music to Central America. Although he suffered from various illnesses that left him blind at the age of 22 and led to a premature death at the age of 33, de la Cruz Mena's special talent allowed him to participate in composing the Nicaraguan national anthem. The committee is honoring his legacy by sharing his story and music with Angelinos.

To increase appreciation for Nicaraguan music and culture, the committee successfully encouraged the City of Los Angeles and the State of California to officially recognize May 3rd as ''Dia del Nicaraguense'' (Nicaraguan Day). The Nicaraguan Cultural Committee celebrated this distinct recognition on May 4 by hosting the first Nicaraguan Folklore Festival in Pico Union where many Americans of Nicaraguan descent have lived since the 1980s. The festival highlighted special Nicaraguan traditions and featured artisan crafts from Nicaragua. To foster cultural exchange, the committee plans to host the Nicaraguan Folklore Festival annually.

I wish the Nicaraguan Cultural Committee ''Jose de la Cruz Mena'' continued success in its efforts to preserve and highlight Nicaraguan traditions!

IN MEMORY OF NEVIN WHITESIDE, JR.

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, this month Lexington County recognized the service of Nevin Whiteside, Jr., as a proud Navy veteran of the Korean War. The following obituary was provided by Caughman-Harmon funeral Home, Lexington Chapel.

Funeral services for Nevin ''Neb'' William Whiteside, Jr., 84, of Lexington, will be held at 2:00 p.m. Friday, May 2, 2014 at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, with interment in the church cemetery. The family will receive friends on Thursday, May 1, 2014 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Caughman-Harman Funeral Home, Lexington Chapel. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 1130 St. Peter's Church Rd., Lexington, SC 29072. Mr. Whiteside was born November 28, 1929 in Leesville, SC and passed away on April 30, 2014. He was the son of the late Nevin William Whiteside and Bertie Eargle Whiteside. Mr. Whiteside served our country in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War. He retired from Kenan Transportation. He was a member of St. Peter's Lutheran Church, VFW and Lexington Masonic Lodge 152. He loved to ride his Harley-Davidson and enjoyed working in the yard and cleaning his car. Mr. Whiteside is survived by his wife, Barbara ''Bobbie'' Sox Whiteside, of Lexington; sons, Stan and Wayne Whiteside of Lexington; daughter, Kim (Tim) French of Lexington; grandchildren, Lauren, Andrew, and Brandon Whiteside, Ashley (Bower) Butler and Malia and Devin French; great-grandchildren, Reece and Paxton Butler; sister, Doris Goff of Saluda and man's best friend ''Bandit'', (Poppy's Lil' Buddy). He is predeceased by his parents and his brother Horace Whiteside.

HONORING THE LIFE OF A MINNESOTA LEGEND: CONGRESSMAN JAMES L. OBERSTAR

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, on May 3, 2014, our former House colleague and dear friend, Chairman Jim Oberstar, passed away. Congressman Oberstar served Minnesota and the families of the 8th Congressional District from 1975 to 2011, including four years as chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. Prior to being elected, Jim served in the U.S. House for eleven years as a senior staff member on the Public Works Committee.

When I arrived in Congress in 2001, Jim Oberstar was the ''dean'' of our Minnesota congressional delegation. He was like a big brother to me. A brilliant legislator and a profoundly gifted man, Jim was also a very kind man, a true gentleman with a huge heart and a hearty laugh.

When I think of Jim and the ten years we served together, I remember a man who loved his family and made sure I always saw the latest photos of his grandchildren. He loved his work as a national leader and true expert on transportation and infrastructure issues. And, Jim Oberstar loved Minnesota and representing northern Minnesota's families in the House of Representatives.

Throughout his career Jim's commitment to improving America's transportation system saved thousands of lives, kept millions of Americans on the job, and strengthened Minnesota's and our nation's economy. During his tenure as chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Jim Oberstar was one of the most powerful men in America. He moved legislation and with his work on American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Jim Oberstar ensured millions of Americans stayed on the job and thousands of infrastructure projects were completed across our country.

One transportation project in my congressional district that Jim Oberstar supported and helped to make a reality was the restoration of St. Paul's Union Depot. This marvelous train depot is now open for Amtrak service and will soon be open for transit commuters. Jim loved the grandeur of the train station and the idea of preserving the past as a means of investing in the future.

During his career Jim Oberstar took thousands of votes and was an eloquent and effective champion for dozens of causes, including adoption, cancer research, and human rights. There are two instances that I remember vividly when Jim's voice, his vote, and his strength made a lasting impact on Minnesotans. In 2002, during the debate on whether to authorize military action in Iraq, Jim was a strong voice against the war in Iraq. I was proud to stand with Jim and Rep. Martin Sabo as the members of the Minnesota House delegation voting to oppose authorizing military action in Iraq.

The other issue that defined Jim Oberstar for me was his tremendous work for Minnesota following the collapse of the I–35W Bridge in Minneapolis on August 1, 2007. As the chairman of the Transportation Committee, Jim was in the right place at the right time to respond to this terrible tragedy. He moved with incredible speed to draft legislation and get it passed on the House floor within forty-eight hours of the collapse. The bill was signed into law on August 6th—less than one week after the disaster. I have no doubt in my mind had that disaster happened in any other state Jim Oberstar would have reacted in exactly the same manner.

At his funeral, Jim's daughters and son spoke lovingly and eloquently about their father. Most of us knew Jim Oberstar was a powerful Member of Congress, but he was also a committed father and a very good man. He cared about working people, the pursuit of social justice, and his Catholic faith. He loved cycling and made his passion for bicycles into national policy that Americans in every corner of this country take advantage of everyday.

I wish to extend my sincere condolences to Jim's wife, Jean, and his children—Noelle Tower, Monica Weber, Annie Oberstar, and Ted Link-Oberstar, as well as all of Jim's grandchildren.

My heartfelt condolences also go out to Jim's congressional family which includes the many dedicated and loyal staff in his Minnesota and Washington congressional offices and his Transportation and Infrastructure Committee staff. The hard work and professionalism of Jim's staff was always evident and I know Jim was very proud of them.

Finally, Jim's long-time chief-of-staff, Bill Richard, spent decades by his side and was essential to Jim's success. I also want to extend my sympathies to Bill for the loss of his friend.

I will always remember Jim as a friend, a mentor, and a public servant of epic stature. Most of all, Jim Oberstar was a truly wonderful man who lived not only a full life, but a life filled with joy and compassion.

WATER RESOURCES REFORM AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2014

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I submit a list of supporters for H.R. 3080: the Water Resources Reform and Development Act.

America's Cement Manufacturers, American Gas Association, American Association of Port Authorities, American Council of Engineering Companies, American Concrete Pavement Association, American Concrete Pipe Association, American Concrete Pumping Association, American Concrete Pressure Pipe Association, American Farm Bureau Federation, American Iron and Steel Institute, American Public Power Association, American Public Works Association, American Road and Transportation Builders Association, American Society of Civil Engineers, American Soybean Association, American Waterways Operators, Arkansas Waterways Commission, Associated Equipment Distributors, Associated General Contractors of America, Association of California Water Agencies, Association of Equipment Manufacturers, Association of State Dam Safety Officials, Big River Coalition, California State Assembly, CH2M HILL, City and Port of Los Angeles, City of Sacramento, Edison Electric Institute, Everglades Foundation, Everglades Trust, Friends of the North Natomas Library, Great Lakes Maritime Task Force, Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund Fairness Coalition, Heritage Park Owners Association, Hilton Fort Lauderdale Beach Resort, International Union of Operating Engineers, International Union of Painters and Allied Trades, Lake Carriers Association, LiUNA, National Asphalt Pavement Association, National Association of Clean Water Agencies, National Association of Flood & Stormwater Management Agencies, National Association of Home Builders, National Association of Manufacturers, National Committee on Levee Safety, National Governor's Association, National League of Cities, National Precast Concrete Association, National Ready Mixed Concrete Association, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, National Rural Water Association, National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association, National Utilities Contractor Association, National Waterways Conference, Natomas Chamber of Commerce, Natomas Charter School, Natomas Community Association, Natomas Unified School District, Nature Conservancy, North Natomas Little League, Sabine Neches Navigation District, Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency, Santa Clara Valley Water District, Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency, Texas Department of Transportation, Tennessee River Valley Association, Transportation Construction Coalition, Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO, Portland Cement Association, United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters, United States Society on Dams, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Valley View Acres Community Association, Vinyl Institute, Water Infrastructure Network, Water Resource Coalition, Waterways Council, Inc., Westlake Master Association, Witter Ranch Community Alliance.

MEDIA IGNORES THAT THE ADMINISTRATION KNEW ABOUT VA PROBLEMS

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, America's brave men and women in uniform come home from military service only to find severe wait times to receive the medical care they have earned.

Recent reports claim that Veteran Affairs officials in various states, including my home state of Texas, have falsified medical appointment data to conceal these long wait times.

This is dishonest, deceptive, and harmful to veterans.

But ignored for weeks by the liberal national media is that the Obama Administration has long known about these extensive wait times.

According to documents received by the Washington Times, the Bush Administration warned the Obama Administration about the prolonged wait times for our veterans in 2008—six years ago.

But you wouldn't know this if you watched NBC or ABC. Or read many media publications.

The media owes it to the American people, and to our veterans, to give them all the facts.

HOWARD P. ''BUCK'' McKEON NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. GUS. M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4435) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Chair, I rise today in support of my amendment, which would allow disabled veterans with service connected permanent disability rated as total to travel on military aircraft on a space-available basis.

The Space-Available program is administered by the Department of Defense (DOD), which allows active duty service members, their families, retirees and certain other individuals to fill empty seats on DOD flights.

Unfortunately, veterans who are 100 percent disabled do not qualify to participate in this program. My amendment will correct this unintentional oversight and provide equality to service members who were severely injured while serving their country honorably.

Had they not been medically discharged with a service connected disability in the line of duty, these veterans were likely to have served until retirement. At no fault of their own, these deserving individuals did not have the opportunity to continue their military careers. It is an injustice that they would be penalized from this benefit due to their bravery and valor.

I would also like to note that under current DOD guidelines for Air Transportation Eligibility, it states, "Every effort shall be made to transport passengers with disabilities who are otherwise eligible to travel. Passenger service personnel and crew members shall provide assistance in loading, seating, and unloading the disabled passenger." There is already guidance in place to address passengers with disabilities, and my amendment will codify our commitment for their sacrifice.

This initiative has strong bi-partisan support, which has over 230 current cosponsors to the stand alone bill I introduced, H.R. 164. Moreover, this initiative has support in the Senate with the companion bill S. 346 offered by Senator JON TESTER from Montana.

While I was very pleased to see my amendment accepted in last year's National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for fiscal year 2014, it was unfortunate it was not accepted in the Senate process during consideration for the bill's passage.

The National Federation of the Blind has been very active in both the House and the Senate in its advocacy for our nations' disabled veterans. I submit a support letter for this amendment by the National Federation of the Blind (NFB).

While active duty members and their families will remain the primary beneficiaries of this program in order to assist them with the rigors of military life, my amendment simply allows these veterans the opportunity to fill available seats, a benefit I believe they have earned through their personal sacrifice.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to end the inequality for our nation's wounded warriors by voting in favor of my amendment. I thank the committees and their staff for their assistance through this process

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND,
Baltimore, MD, May 19, 2014.

Subject: Support for H.R. 164

Hon. GUS M. BILIRAKIS,
House of Representatives, 2313 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN BILIRAKIS: The National Federation of the Blind is the Nation's oldest and largest consumer group of blind Americans. We are composed of blind individuals who come from many different backgrounds, and we work to ensure that the concerns of all blind Americans are met.

Included in our organization is the National Association of Blinded Veterans. Recently these men and women who served our country brought to our attention a policy that we believe needs to be changed. The Space Available program is a program that allows a number of military personnel to fly on military transport planes if there is space remaining. This may include members of the Active Military, Family members of the Active Military, some components of Reserve Forces, individuals who are responding to emergency situations, such as the Red Cross, and retirees. We believe that individuals who have become disabled in the service of our country should be allowed to participate in this program.

Shortly after being made aware of this issue by blinded veterans, we learned that you introduced legislation to solve this problem in the last Congress. We are pleased that you reintroduced this legislation, H.R. 164, early in this session of Congress. The National Federation of the Blind stands firmly in support of this legislation, and will dedicate our support and our efforts to ensure its passage in this session of Congress.

Last June, thanks to your leadership, the United States House of Representatives voted to include this language in the 2014 National Defense Authorization Act. Unfortunately our Senate companion amendment was not allowed to be considered during Senate consideration in December. We appreciate the support shown by the House of Representatives, and urge the House to continue to fight for Service Disabled Veterans, by joining with you to include this language in the 2015 National Defense Authorization Act.

We thank you for your leadership to support these men and women who have given service to defend our rights, and we now join with you to defend their rights to participate in the Space Available program.

JOHN G. PARÉ, JR.,
Executive Director for Advocacy and Policy.

RECOGNITION OF MCAA HEAD START AND EARLY HEAD START

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Manatee Community Action Agency's (MCAA) Head Start and Early Head Start programs that change lives by helping to prepare children in my Congressional District for school.

MCAA's Head Start programs started in the summer of 1965 with 60 children. Today there are 630 children enrolled in eight locations throughout Manatee County, including 65 children with special needs. More than 3,000 children have participated in the programs since its inception.

The Head Start program serves children from age 3 to 5 and partners with parents and families to ensure continuity of positive growth and development at home and school.

Early Head Start serves children from birth to age 3, pregnant women and their families. MCAA provides very young children with an environment that stimulates them and motivates them to use all of their senses.

Furthermore, 100 percent of the children enrolled in MCAA's early learning programs during the 2012–2013 school year were provided with continuous access to healthcare, and were up to date on age-appropriate preventive and primary health care and immunizations.

MCAA's Head Start and Early Head Start students scored high marks in meeting school readiness and educational goals. On goal assessments, the students scored in the upper 90 percent range in the areas of physical health status and knowledge, gross motor skills, fine motor skills, self-concept, self-regulation, and emotional and behavioral health.

By focusing on the whole child—mental, physical, emotional and social well-being—MCAA's Head Start and Early Head Start programs prepare the children of Manatee County for a lifetime of educational success.

HONORING THE 2014 PLANO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICTS' TEACHER OF THE YEAR NOMINEES

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Plano Independent School Districts' 2014 Teacher of the Year Nominees. These outstanding educators are motivating and engaging our children to become lifelong learners and equip them with the tools to succeed.

Education is one of the fundamental building blocks of a person's future and a successful nation. Our teachers deserve to be celebrated for their service to the next generation of leaders. I commend you all for your hard work, dedication to your students, and commitment to excellence in education.

These 72 individuals were nominated by their peers at their respective schools. This is a true testament to their inspirational impact on not only their students but their fellow teachers.

These great teachers mold young dreams; they spark a flame for a student to study liberal arts or pursue a career in science or even push an athlete to the next level. They are the guardian of dreams for the student who wants to be the first in their family to attend and graduate college, and it is their constant, gentle approach that keeps these young leaders on the path to success. It is your encouragement, time, and tireless efforts that help make a young person's dreams of obtaining a higher education, starting a business, or serving in the U.S. military a reality. It is extraordinary teachers like you that make our community, our country and the world a better place.

It is for these reasons and countless more that I thank you all for your continued efforts in giving our students an exemplary, top-notch education.

I look forward to learning of the future successes of the nationally recognized Plano Independent School Districts 7,000 employees, hundreds of teachers, and 55,000+ students.

God Bless you and I salute you.

A record of each nominees name and school they serve is listed below.

Heather Schmitt—Beaty, Kristi Vest—Head Start, Bethany Bowers—Isaacs, Sarah Senne—Pearson, Karen Christensen—Aldridge, Mindy Schreiber—Andrews, Chrystal Litman—Barksdale, Penny Beazley—Barron, Connie Gillmore—Bethany, Nora Davis—Beverly, Ashley Dantzler—Boggess, Amy Chilcutt—Brinker, Laura Teague—Carlisle, Jennifer Collins—Centennial, Meagan Middlebrooks—Christie, Joanne Curley—Daffron, Erin Graham—Davis, Lauren Shaw—Dooley, Andrew Wick—Forman, Emily Hollingsworth—Gulledge, Lode Lyon—Haggar, Linda Culbreth—Harrington, Cyndy Baltzley—Haun, Tiffany Samuel—Hedgcoxe, Michele Rollins—Hickey, Patrick Quinlan—Hightower, Donna Hartman—Huffman, Lori Turnbull—Hughston, Kelly Hamilton—Hunt, Shelly Arthur—Jackson, Kristin Glasscock—Mathews, Julie Walker—McCall, Leigh Adams—Meadows, Kaitlin Eckstein—Memorial, Debbie LaChey—Mendenhall, Lacy Watson—Miller, Laura

Arellano—Mitchell, Rebecca Bailey—Rasor, Christi Burkle—Saigling, Jessica Sides—Schell, Jana Martin—Shepard, Kari Tolle—Sigler, Megan Bruce—Skaggs, Whitney Pitzer—Stinson, Casey Howell—Thomas, Debbie Little—Weatherford, Stacy Lawrence—Wells, Kim Ramirez—Wyatt, Ashley Brown—Bird Center, Kathleen Farquhar—Armstrong, Mark Caspersen—Bowman, Kathleen Zeier—Carpenter, Anna Vines—Frankford, Eric Feldman—Haggard, Karen Home—Hendrick, Nick Seibert—Murphy, Bonny Pan-Otto, Neelima Singh—Renner, Cindy Woolum—Rice, Kimberley Ahrens—Robinson, Azam Anet—Schimelpfenig, Kennitra Robertson—Wilson, Karen Stanton—Clark, David Jones—Jasper, Sarah Fischer—McMillen, Joshua Thompson—Shepton, Fred Sampson—Vines, Christine Miller—Williams, Megan Walters—Academy, Daniel Knight—Plano East, Terry Eder—Plano Senior, Barbara Nelson—Plano West.

HONORING CHELAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES ADAM MUSGROVE AND RYAN MOODY

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Chelan County Sheriffs Deputies Adam Musgrove and Ryan Moody. Deputies Musgrove and Moody were awarded the highest law enforcement honor in Washington State, the Law Enforcement Medal of Honor for meritorious conduct.

Like the other officers who received medals of honor that day, Deputies Musgrove and Moody are accustomed to running toward danger instead of away. In this instance, their heroic actions not only put themselves at risk but resulted in a saved life when they rescued a man from burning building in September 2013. I am honored to call them both my constituents and to serve on their behalf in Congress.

The award was presented on Friday May 2, 2014 by Governor Jay Inslee and Washington Attorney General Bob Ferguson. They were two of only eleven to receive this prestigious honor.

Mr. Speaker, I salute Chelan County Sheriffs Deputies Adam Musgrove and Ryan Moody, and I thank them for all they have given back to the people of Washington State. Thank you.

HOWARD P. ''BUCK'' McKEON NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4435) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Chair, I would like to thank Chairman McKEON and the Members of the House Armed Services Committee for the Committee's work on the Fiscal Year 2015 National Defense Authorization Act. As the Chairman of the House Small Business Committee, I know very well that efforts of this magnitude take leadership, thoughtfulness and compromise. I support the final bill, and thank the Committee for continuing to make our Nation's security a top priority.

I want to draw attention to a key priority that the Committee helped address this year. Earlier this year, United States Navy offered to the Committee its ''unfunded priority'' request of additional EA–18G Growlers, an electronic attack aircraft. Specifically, the Navy Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Admiral Jonathan Greenert testified that there is an emerging requirement for more electronic attack, and he asked for 22 Growlers. The Growler is the only aircraft that can provide the full spectrum electronic attack that are needed for future operations.

In addition to a specific warfighting capability that the Growler provides, the men and women that work on the aircraft are part of America's aerospace industry that has undergone significant change over the last several decades. A vital part of this industry are the small businesses that have kept our military force on the cutting edge, armed with technologies and programs no other nation can match. The production of the Growler is no exception to this rule as there are 340 small businesses that are located across 32 states, including in my home state of Missouri, which support the program.

At a time when the small business sector is regaining its footing in the recovering economy, there should be a way to preserve the military industrial base. This bill supports that effort by adding 5 Growlers above the President's Budget Request and encouraging the Navy to keep the manufacturing line open. Closing the line would not only upend many small businesses that sustain the program, but would also lead to less competition and fewer innovative technology breakthroughs in tactical aviation. The Committee bill represents a good first step at meeting the dual needs of the Navy's requirements and the defense industrial base.

As the Fiscal Year 2015 bills move through the process, I look forward to working with the Committee to meet the needs of the warfighter and to protect the small businesses interests in our Nation.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was $10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is $17,485,062,209,497.43. We've added $6,858,185,160,583.35 to our debt in 5 years. This is over $6.9 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

RECOGNIZING ARMED FORCES DAY

HON. JERRY McNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. McNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Armed Forces Day, which took place on May 17th. We have set this day aside to recognize the men and women of our armed forces since Armed Forces Day was established by President Harry Truman in 1949.

All Americans should take time to honor the sacrifices of our people in uniform serving in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard around the world. They put their lives at risk to protect us, to rescue us, and to assure our freedom and that of our allies.

Our service members endure harsh and often life-threatening conditions, long hours, and extended periods away from their families for the best reason of all—because their country asked them to. I urge Americans to thank members of the armed forces for their service when they see them in the community, to help their families when they are deployed, and to hire them when they leave the service and are coming back into our communities as veterans.

CONGRATULATING THE TELACU EDUCATION FOUNDATION ON THEIR 31ST ANNUAL BUILDING THE DREAM GALA

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the TELACU Education Foundation, a non-profit organization based in my 40th Congressional District. The Foundation has been transforming educational outcomes for thousands of Latino students over more than three decades.

TELACU, The East Los Angeles Community Union, is a pioneer in empowering and revitalizing communities in our great State of California and throughout our Nation. More than 30 years ago, in response to crisis-level dropout rates for Latino students in college, TELACU created the TELACU Education Foundation. Working in partnership with a vast network of colleges, universities, corporations, and individuals, the TELACU Education Foundation has awarded millions of dollars in scholarships to thousands of deserving students.

As the centerpiece of the Foundation, the College Success Program annually provides scholarships to 500 college and graduate students who are the first in their families to access higher education. Realizing that financial resources alone cannot fully meet these students' needs, the program provides these scholars with comprehensive academic and career guidance to ensure that they graduate.

The Foundation also serves an additional 1,600 middle and high school students, nursing school students, and veterans. Through comprehensive educational programs, these scholars are not only inspired to pursue higher education, but are also equipped to meet the

rigorous expectations of college. As a result, 99% of TELACU's high school students have earned their high school diplomas and continued on to pursue post-secondary education, and 99% of TELACU college students have earned, at minimum, a bachelor's degree.

TELACU Scholars are recruited from the poorest neighborhoods in Southern California, Chicago, Texas, and New York. In many of these neighborhoods, young African Americans and Latinos are more likely to be arrested by their 18th birthday than to graduate high school. Yet year after year, TELACU Scholars have proven that it doesn't matter where you were born, what the color of your skin is, or what language you speak at home—if you study and work hard, you can become anything you want to be in our great United States of America.

And hard work is what TELACU Scholars are all about. Scholars like Priscila Papias leverage all the resources provided by the TELACU Education Foundation to advance not only themselves and their educations, but their communities as well. As part of the Foundation's internship program, Priscila partnered with local universities, food banks, and farmer's markets to help provide regular nutritional screenings and high-quality nutritional care for residents of TELACU's senior housing complexes. I thank Priscila Papias and all of her fellow TELACU Scholars for their hard work and contributions to our communities.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of the thousands of students they have served, empowered, and advanced to achieve self-sufficiency, I ask my colleagues to please join me in recognizing David and Priscila Lizárraga for their exemplary leadership and commendable efforts to support our young people and our communities, and wish them and the TELACU Education Foundation many years of continued success ahead.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. ALBIVORY ''BIB'' HESTER CORLEY 100 YEARS YOUNG ON MAY 23RD, 2014

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to pay tribute on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives to Mrs. Albivory Hester Corley, who is known as Bib to many and will be 100 years of age on May 23rd. Bib was born in Mississippi at a time when situations and circumstances were quite different in this country. Armed with a great desire to acquire higher education, she left the family farm and attended Jackson College, (currently known as Jackson State University) and Tennessee State University in Nashville, Tennessee. After college she returned to her roots in Mississippi and taught at the Pilgrim Rest School. After teaching for a number of years, Bib decided that it was time to pursue greater opportunities and moved to Chicago, like many other African Americans who were born in Mississippi. In 1952, she began working at the Cook County Probate Court and eventually became the first African American to become Probate Clerk, and worked for the Probate Court for thirty-seven years during the tenure of nine governors and six mayors. Chicago brought Bib not only success in her career, but also success in finding her soulmate. It was in Chicago that Bib met her husband Jimmy Corley, whom she married in 1956.

Bib and Jimmy shared a strong faith in God and joined the outstanding Grant Memorial AME Church where they were both active members until Jimmy's passing in 1982. Bib remains active in the church and considers herself truly blessed for all the years of life that God has given her.

Even in retirement, Mrs. Corley is not slowing down. She remains very active, traveling all over the world sharing her story and inspiring others. As a Member of the US House of Representatives, I take delight in recognizing a truly remarkable woman and thank her for all the contributions she has made to humankind.

HONORING MIKE MONTGOMERY ON HIS RETIREMENT AS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL IN KNOXVILLE, IOWA

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my good friend Mike Montgomery on his retirement as an elementary school principal for the Knoxville Community School District. Mike was my best friend growing up in Brooklyn and has dedicated his life to the education of Iowa children.

Mike earned his master's degree in school administration from Drake University and his bachelor's degree in elementary education from Central College. For 26 years Mike has served as a principal in the Knoxville Community School District. At Knoxville, he has implemented many successful education programs including all day every day kindergarten, 4 year old voluntary pre-school, and a system of support and professional learning communities for teachers and students.

Mike has been a strong leader and mentor for the students and faculty in Knoxville. He interacts with students on a daily basis eating lunch with them and playing sports with them. Mike has also successfully built strong relationships with his staff and has personally hired many of the elementary school teachers in Knoxville. He has twice been nominated for Knoxville Community Educator of the Year. He has been a strong leader and champion for education throughout his career and has devoted his life to improving the lives of children.

''Mr. Montgomery'' has been a powerful positive role model in the lives of thousands of Iowa students, including my own nieces. His energy and enthusiasm inspire us to put students first and make education a lifelong experience. I'm very proud of Mike, and honored to call him my friend. I congratulate him on his retirement and I wish him, his wife Mary, and the rest of his family all of the best as he moves on to his next adventure.

RECOGNIZING THE LOS BANOS BASQUE CLUB

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Los Banos Basque Club for their 50th anniversary. From putting on the annual picnic to volunteering with the dance group and participating in various other club events, the Los Banos Basque Club's 50 years of proud history can be directly attributed to the tireless participation of all of its members.

The Basques lived in the Los Banos area before California joined the United States in 1848. Many of the early Basques in this area were sheepherders, while others worked as ranchers, miners, and laborers. Throughout the late 1800's and early 1900's, they organized and formed a vibrant and cohesive community. Many Basques are of Catholic heritage, and Basques in the Los Banos area often gathered to celebrate Baptisms, First Holy Communions, and weddings in large gatherings.

The most common celebration to bring together the Basque people of the Los Banos area was a picnic, which the Basques began holding in 1886. The early picnics were an occasion to reunite old friends and families and to celebrate Basque culture. In order to better organize the Basques in the Los Banos area and to organize and coordinate an annual picnic, a group of Basques formed the Los Banos Basque Club. The Club also helped preserve the Basque culture and heritage in Central California.

At the first meeting, the Club voted to hold an annual picnic on the third Sunday of every May, and the first annual Los Banos Basque Picnic was held that same year. Additionally, the Club began a dance group, where adults would come together to teach the children Basque customs and traditions, including the traditional Basque dances.

This year marks the 50th year of the Los Banos Basque Club's existence and is similarly the 50th annual picnic of the Club. For the past 50 years, the annual picnic has maintained the same schedule of events, including a Catholic Mass, a BBQ Lamb Chop lunch, Basque dancing demonstrations, traditional competitions like wood chopping, weight carrying, or soka tira, music, public dancing, and a chorizo BBQ.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Los Banos Basque Club for their 50 successful years. With their strong ties to their roots, their desire to preserve Basque traditions, and their pride of being called a Basque, the Los Banos Basque Club hopes to carry on its traditional picnics far into the future.

HOWARD P. ''BUCK'' McKEON NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 4435) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. MCKEON. Mr. Chair, I ask that the following exchange of letters be included as part of the RECORD during consideration of H.R. 4435:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM,
Washington, DC, May 9, 2014.

Hon. HOWARD ''BUCK'' MCKEON,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing to you concerning the bill H.R. 4435, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015. There are certain provisions in the legislation which fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

In the interest of permitting your committee to proceed expeditiously to floor consideration of this important bill, I am willing to waive this committee's right to sequential referral. I do so with the understanding that by waiving consideration of the bill the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill which fall within its Rule X jurisdiction. I request that you urge the Speaker to name members of this committee to any conference committee which is named to consider such provisions.

Please place this letter into the committee report on H.R. 4435 and into the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor. Thank you for the cooperative spirit in which you have worked regarding this matter and others between our respective committees.

Sincerely,

DARRELL ISSA,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 12, 2014.

Hon. DARRELL ISSA,
Chairman, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 4435, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015. I agree that the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform has valid jurisdictional claims to certain provisions in this important legislation, and I am most appreciative of your decision not to request a referral in the interest of expediting consideration of the bill. I agree that by foregoing a sequential referral, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is not waiving its jurisdiction. Further, this exchange of letters will be included in the committee report on the bill.

Sincerely,

HOWARD P. ''BUCK'' MCKEON,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS,
Washington, DC, May 9, 2014.

Hon. HOWARD P. ''BUCK'' MCKEON,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCKEON: I am writing to you concerning the bill H.R. 4435, the Howard P. ''Buck'' McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015. There are certain provisions in the legislation which fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Small Business pursuant to Rule X(q) of the House of Representatives.

In the interest of permitting the Committee on Armed Services to proceed expeditiously to floor consideration of this important bill, I am willing to waive the right of the Committee on Small Business to sequential referral. I do so with the understanding that by waiving consideration of the bill, the Committee on Small Business does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill which fall within its Rule X(q) jurisdiction, including future bills that the Committee on Armed Services will consider. I request that you urge the Speaker to appoint members of this Committee to any conference committee which is named to consider such provisions.

Please place this letter into the committee report on H.R. 4435 and into the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor. Thank you for the cooperative spirit in which you have worked regarding this issue and others between our respective committees.

Sincerely,

SAM GRAVES,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 12, 2014.

Hon. SAM GRAVES,
Chairman, Committee on Small Business, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 4435, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015. I agree that the Committee on Small Business has valid jurisdictional claims to certain provisions in this important legislation, and I am most appreciative of your decision not to request a referral in the interest of expediting consideration of the bill. I agree that by foregoing a sequential referral, the Committee on Small Business is not waiving its jurisdiction. Further, this exchange of letters will be included in the committee report on the bill.

Sincerely,

HOWARD P. ''BUCK'' MCKEON,
Chairman.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY,
Washington, DC, May 9, 2014.

Hon. HOWARD ''BUCK'' MCKEON,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. MCKEON: I write to confirm our mutual understanding regarding H.R. 4435, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015. This legislation contains subject matter within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. However, in order to expedite jurisdiction of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. However, in order to expedite floor consideration of this important legislation, the committee waives consideration of the bill.

The Committee on Science, Space, and Technology takes this action only with the understanding that the committee's jurisdictional interests over this and similar legislation are in no way diminished or altered.

The committee also reserves the right to seek appointment to any conference on this legislation and requests your support if such a request is made. Finally, I would appreciate your including this letter in the Congressional Record during consideration of H.R. 4435 on the House Floor. Thank you for your attention in these matters.

Sincerely,

LAMAR SMITH,
Chairman, Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 12, 2014.

Hon. LAMAR SMITH,
Chairman, Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 4435, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015. I agree that the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology has valid jurisdictional claims to certain provisions in this important legislation, and I am most appreciative of your decision not to request a referral in the interest of expediting consideration of the bill. I agree that by foregoing a sequential referral, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology is not waiving its jurisdiction. Further, this exchange of letters will be included in the committee report on the bill.

Sincerely,

HOWARD P. ''BUCK'' MCKEON,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 9, 2014.

Hon. HOWARD P. ''BUCK'' MCKEON,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCKEON: I write concerning H.R. 4435, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015, as amended. There are certain provisions in the legislation that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

However, in order to expedite this legislation for floor consideration, the Committee will forgo action on this bill. This, of course, is conditional on our mutual understanding that forgoing consideration of the bill does not prejudice the Committee with respect to the appointment of conferees or to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill or similar legislation that fall within the Committee's Rule X jurisdiction. I request you urge the Speaker to name members of the Committee to any conference committee named to consider such provisions.

Please place a copy of this letter and your response acknowledging our jurisdictional interest into the committee report on H.R. 4435 and into the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor.

Sincerely,

BILL SHUSTER,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 21, 2014.

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

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 4435, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015. I agree that the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure has valid jurisdictional claims to certain provisions in this important legislation, and I am most appreciative of your decision not to request a referral in the interest of expediting consideration of the bill. I agree that by foregoing a

sequential referral, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure is not waiving its jurisdiction. Further, this exchange of letters will be included in the committee report on the bill.

Sincerely,

HOWARD P. ''BUCK'' MCKEON,
Chairman.

CONGRESSIONAL RECOGNITION FOR UNITED STATES ARMY COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR MARTIN R. BARRERAS

HON. RON BARBER

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor United States Army Command Sergeant Major Martin R. Barreras, who died on May 12, 2014 from wounds he suffered on May 6 when enemy forces attacked his unit with small arms fire in Harat Province, Afghanistan. He leaves behind his mother, father, brother, two children, a grandson, and numerous friends.

Born in New Mexico, Command Sergeant Major Barreras spent most of his childhood in Tucson, Arizona. He attended Sunnyside High School before joining the military. In his last assignment of his long military career, he was assigned as the highest-ranking enlisted member of the 2nd Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team based in Fort Bliss, Texas.

Command Sergeant Major Barreras was on his sixth deployment to Afghanistan, after serving 29 honorable years defending our country in both the Army and Marine Corps.

Command Sergeant Major Barreras was a great soldier. Over his career he earned fifty awards and distinctions including a Bronze Star with valor and two Purple Hearts. However, his illustrious career depicted through his medals will not be the only thing to highlight his service to our country. The men and women he lead and fought with will always remember his selflessness and war fighting spirit that will undoubtedly be passed on for generations to come.

As an Army Ranger he helped rescue former Prisoner of War Jessica Lynch from an Iraqi hospital in 2003. Command Sergeant Major Barreras was the leader of the Army battalion that conducted the successful rescue of Lynch. He personally handed Lynch to another soldier to transfer her to the helicopter that evacuated her from the area. Without any hesitation, he then led the fight against multiple attacks in order to retrieve all 9 bodies of the other U.S. soldiers missing in action.

We remember Command Sergeant Major Barreras and offer our deepest condolences and sincerest prayers to his family. I am heartsick for their loss and my words cannot offer adequate consolation.

Everyone in our great country owes Command Sergeant Major Barreras and his family a debt of gratitude for his selfless sacrifice and courage. It is vital that we keep our men and women in uniform who are in harm's way in our thoughts and prayers. I call on my fellow colleagues and all Americans to remember, on this Memorial Day weekend, Command Sergeant Major Barrens and his fellow fallen comrades—those who have paid the ultimate price.

USA FREEDOM ACT

HON. SUSAN K. DELBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, as an original cosponsor of the USA Freedom Act, I am disappointed that I cannot support this bill as it is considered on the floor today.

Like many Americans, I was shocked to learn about the National Security Agency's domestic spying program that was sweeping up the private communications records of millions of innocent Americans. It goes against American values and our Constitution. That's why two weeks ago I was pleased to join my colleagues on the Judiciary Committee in unanimously supporting the USA Freedom Act as it passed out of the committee.

I believed that the compromise, while far from perfect, would help rebuild the public trust in government by ending bulk collection, assuring that government surveillance authorities are rule-bound, narrowly tailored, transparent and subject to oversight, all while ensuring that the nation's intelligence community can protect national security.

Unfortunately, since then, negotiations with the Administration have resulted in this bill moving in the wrong direction. While I believe that the intent of this bill is to end bulk collection and I am glad that there is widespread agreement that Congress must act to end bulk collection, I am not convinced the bill effectively achieves this. The weakened definition of ''specific selection term'' must be addressed as this bill moves forward in order to provide absolute certainty that the legislative language achieves this intent, and that the bill's ban on bulk collection is air-tight. Today's bill simply fall short of what is needed to provide a clear guarantee to the public that the massive data collection by the NSA will be put to a full stop.

I appreciate the efforts of the Committees and Leadership to support greater transparency in the bill. The transparency reporting amendment that I offered in the Judiciary Committee that is included in the bill will allow companies to disclose information regarding the number and nature of government demands for user information. However, the new manager's amendment that we are considering on the House floor today has weakened this provision by, for example, adding a two-year delay that prohibits companies from issuing transparency reports for new products or services. I offered several amendments to the Rules Committee to address my concerns with the weakened language in the manager's amendment, but none of these amendments were given an opportunity for debate or a vote on the House floor.

I thank the Committees and the Leadership for their work to move this important conversation forward, but I simply cannot support the bill in its current form.

HONORING THE LIFE AND DEDICATED SERVICE OF COMMANDER ROBERT JAMES FLYNN, USN RETIRED

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on May 15, 2014, Northwest Florida and our Nation lost a warrior—Commander Robert James Flynn, United States Navy, Retired. Commander Flynn honorably served our country as a member of the Armed Forces for twenty-seven years, and I am humbled to rise and pay tribute to his life and his unwavering devotion to God and country.

Hailing from La Crosse, Wisconsin, Commander Flynn studied pre-law at the University of Minnesota until 1958 when he entered the Naval Aviation Cadet Program. Within two years, he became a Naval Flight Officer and then trained as a bombardier/navigator. On August 21, 1967, his life took a tragic turn when his A–6 aircraft, which launched from the USS *Constellation*, was shot down over North Vietnam. Commander Flynn spent the next five and a half years of his life in a Chinese prison. According to the POW Network, his unimaginable 2,030 days in solitary confinement makes it the longest amount of time a member of the U.S. Armed Forces served in solitary confinement. Commander Flynn was released on March 15, 1973.

Commander Flynn was proud to say that his captors called him ''one of the most reactionary prisoners in their history.'' His relentless strength and courage were hallmarks of both his life and career, and it was his strong faith in God, his love for his family, and his commitment to duty, honor, and country that even in the darkest of times he held on and survived. His final assignment as Director of Aviation Warfare Training with Chief of Naval Education and Training at Naval Air Station Pensacola brought Commander Flynn back home to his beloved Northwest Florida. In 1985, he retired from the Navy after 71 missions. Throughout his distinguished Naval Career, Commander Flynn earned and was bestowed multiple honors including the Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star, and Prisoner of War Medal.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it gives me great pride to honor the life and service of an American hero and decorated warrior. Our Nation, the Northwest Florida community, and countless others will miss Commander Flynn's unwavering perseverance and optimism, but his legacy will endure for years to come. My wife Vicki joins me in extending our most sincere condolences to his wife, Kathy; their two children, Elizabeth and Robert; and the entire Flynn family.

TRIBUTE TO CARRYE B. BROWN

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a true trail blazer, Carrye B. Brown, on the 20th anniversary of her appointment as our nation's first female and first African American U.S. Fire Administrator. A D.C.

resident most of her life, Mrs. Brown used her skills and personality to work with Federal agencies, Congress and the fire service community to achieve the goal of a safer America.

As a congressional staffer in 1982, Mrs. Brown successfully coordinated the effort to continue the U.S. Fire Administration after its recommended elimination. Also, Mrs. Brown was instrumental in the passage of many important pieces of legislation, including the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act, the Hotel and Motel Fire Safety Act of 1990, and the Fire Administration Authorization Act of 1992, which led to the establishment of the ''National Fallen Firefighters Foundation''.

President William J. Clinton and a parade of witnesses testified on her behalf 20 years ago at her nomination hearing. I was proud to testify at her hearing myself to assist her in making history as the first female African American U.S. fire administrator. As U.S. Fire Administrator, her management innovations included the development of the first complete and transparent budget accountability system, and the establishment of a fair and equitable pay and promotion policy. With her extensive background as a congressional staffer, she developed strong justifications for the largest budget increase in the 25-year history of the agency. Under her strong leadership, the agency implemented the first fire safety program targeting groups at the highest risk of fire.

Mrs. Brown has traveled widely to speak on women becoming successful in government, women as leaders and managers in non-traditional positions, and the joys and perils of a political appointee. After retiring from the Federal government, she worked for over a decade as a teacher and tutor for students with learning differences in Washington, D.C. Her husband Larry and herself, have three children and one grandson. Our nation is better because of Mrs. Brown.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in thanking Mrs. Carrye B. Brown for her dedicated public service and her many accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM HUELSKAMP

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. HUELSKAMP. Mr. Speaker, due to a family obligation, I was unable to vote in the House on Wednesday, May 21st, therefore I am not recorded as voting. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: rollcall No. 223, I would have voted ''nay''; rollcall No. 224, I would have voted ''nay'', rollcall No. 225, I would have voted ''no''; rollcall No. 226, I would have voted ''no''; rollcall No. 227, I would have voted ''aye''; rollcall No. 228, I would have voted ''yea''; rollcall No. 229, I would have voted ''yea'' on H.R. 4031, the Department of Veterans Affairs Management Accountability Act of 2014, of which I was an original co-sponsor.

TRIBUTE TO HARVEY DOUMA

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Harvey Douma, who has devoted his life to Ripon, California and is being honored with the Harvey Douma Lifetime Achievement Award from the Ripon Rotary Club. The club created this award to recognize and honor a Rotary member who has made immeasurable contributions to the club and named it after a charter member. Harvey will be the first recipient.

In 1918, Harvey Douma arrived in Ripon when he was only a year and a half of age. The family made the trip from Northern Michigan in their seven passenger car. The clutch went out on the trip and they took the train for the remainder of their journey. They arrived in Lathrop on November 17, where they waited, for eight hours, to transfer to another train that would take them to the Ripon, California.

When he came of age, Harvey enlisted in the Merchant Marines. He attended basic training on Catalina Island during World War II. His first duty station assignment was to a troop transport on a ship that was in dry dock at San Pedro, California.

After completing his service to his country, he returned to Ripon. He joined the Ripon Police Department, where he was a member for 31 years. Harvey served as Chief of Police from October 1, 1963 to May 26, 1982, which is the longest tenure of any police chief in Ripon history.

In 1968, at the 6th Annual Ripon Almond Blossom Festival, the Ripon Chamber of Commerce dedicated the festival to salute local law enforcement with emphasis to be placed on ''Operation Crime Stop''. They named Harvey as the Grand Marshal of the parade. He also had the honor of serving as Grand Marshal of Ripon High School's Centennial Parade & Celebration. As a 1935 Ripon High School graduate, he is the oldest living alumnus.

As one that gives back to his community, he is a member of several community organizations. As a charter member of the Ripon Rotary Club, he has earned 2 Paul Harris Awards. In addition, he is a charter member of Ripon's Historical Society, life member of the Chamber of Commerce and served as President in 1970; he has been a member of the Safety Council for over 55 years. When he is not volunteering his time, he enjoys fishing, hunting and travel.

In 1939, Harvey married Etta Mae Ramsey. They were married for 58 years until her death in 1997. Their union produced three children; Linda Perrando, Donna Vincelet Brundy, and Donald Douma. They have 6 grandchildren: Diane Wong, Greg & Roger Vincelet; Mike & Mark Perrando; Stacey Cordoba & Dorine Hatcher and 7 great-grandchildren: Lyndsey & Kyle Wong; Megan Vincelet Van Ruiten & Cody Vincelet; Jordyn & Jayse Vincelet; Julia Hatcher, Deceased.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating with the Ripon Rotary Club in honoring Harvey Douma with the Harvey Douma Lifetime Achievement Award. He is a man who dedicated numerous years of selfless service to the betterment of our community.

HOWARD P. ''BUCK'' McKEON NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4435) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chair, today I was proud to vote to approve H.R. 4435, the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2015. The NDAA is the key mechanism to provide necessary authorities and funding for America's military.

Even in an era of constrained taxpayer resources, it is essential that we find ways to ensure our military has the funding necessary to carry out its mission. The FY15 NDAA provides a responsible fiscal balance and prioritizes the critical tools our troops need to maintain and perform as the finest fighting force in the world. The bill also provides our warfighters, and their families, with the support and care that we have promised them.

One area that was minimally addressed was the size and growth of the civilian workforce at the Department of Defense (DoD). The NDAA tasks GAO to assess DoD's headquarter reduction efforts, building off its previous work conducted for the committee on examining growth in DOD headquarters. However, I believe Congress must go a step further in addressing the growth of the civilian workforce, especially as we draw down our uniformed personnel. It is important to note that:

From FY01 to FY14, the civilian staff has grown by 15 percent while total active military has declined by 4 percent;

The ratio of civilian workers to uniformed personnel is the highest in recent history despite the draw down in Iraq and Afghanistan;

There are currently 718,000 civilian personnel versus 1.3 million active duty, a ratio that is out of balance.

This imbalance is why I introduced the Rebalance for an Effective Defense Uniform and Civilian Employees Act (REDUCE Act, H.R. 4257). The REDUCE Act would require the Department of Defense to make necessary reductions in a systematic manner without compromising our ability to maintain a strong national defense over the long term.

The REDUCE Act would:

Reduce our defense civilian workforce by 15 percent by FY 2020. This percentage was recommended by the Defense Business Board, a trusted, authoritative, and independent source of expertise.

The Department of Defense civilian workforce would remain at or below this established cap of a 15 percent reduction for Fiscal Years 2021 through 2025.

The Department of Defense civilian Senior Executive Service career appointee workforce will be reduced to 1,000 by 2020 and remain at or below 1,000 employees for Fiscal Years 2021 through 2025.

Provide the Secretary of Defense the authority to use voluntary separation incentive

payments and voluntary early retirement payments in order to achieve the required reductions in personnel.

Provide the Secretary of Defense the authority to assign greater weight to the performance factor, rather than other factors such as tenure, in a Reduction in Force.

There is no doubt that our DoD civilian workers play a vital role in numerous positions including logistics, acquisition, personnel management, and more. The mission of the civilian workforce at DoD is to support our uniformed personnel and their missions around the world. However, as we draw down our uniformed personnel, it makes no sense to not make commensurate reductions to the civilian workforce—a practice that has occurred in previous drawdowns.

As Members of Congress, we should not let parochial interests prevent us from doing what is right for the country. Simply stated, it is inconceivable, defies logic and tramples the lessons of experience that a federal civilian job, once created, must live on forever. If our uniformed services are being reduced because the wars are ending, then a significant portion of the civilian jobs created to support those warfighters should be eliminated—not become contractor positions. Those jobs must be eliminated and done so at the legislative mandate of the Congress and at the executive discretion of the Secretary of Defense.

In closing, I would like to mention that this was the last NDAA brought to the House floor by my good friend and the Chairman of the Armed Services Committee, Rep. BUCK MCKEON (CA–25). I want to thank Chairman MCKEON for all of the hard work and dedication he has demonstrated on behalf of our troops and their families throughout his service here in the House.

HONORING SERGEANT KYLE WHITE

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Sergeant Kyle White. Sgt. White was awarded the highest honor in the military, the Medal of Honor for meritorious conduct, by President Barack Obama on May 13, 2014.

Like his fellow soldiers, he is accustomed to running toward danger instead of away, but Sgt. White's courage is above and beyond the ordinary. He repeatedly ran the gauntlet of enemy fire to get to wounded and fallen soldiers, regardless of his personal safety. In an ambush in November of 2007 Sgt. White, who was barely 20 years old, stayed with a wounded and fallen soldier for the duration, calling in reports and directing others so that the wounded and dead could be safety evacuated. It is my privilege and greatest honor to represent our Veterans in Congress and I applaud the decision to award him with this medal. It is well deserved.

Mr. Speaker, I salute Sgt. Kyle White, and I thank him for the many sacrifices he has made in service to our nation.

RECOGNIZING MR. ROBERT ISHAM

HON. DINA TITUS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a constituent from Nevada's First Congressional District, Robert Isham. A young Mr. Isham enlisted in the United States Navy on November 4, 1942, in Seattle, Washington. He then attended Basic Training in San Diego, California. Following his graduation from the Naval Air Technical Training Center in Norman, Oklahoma, where he was trained to be an Aviation Machinist Mate, he was transferred to the Virginia Naval Air Station in Norfolk, Virginia.

On September 17, 1943, Mr. !sham was seriously injured in an explosion and fire at the Virginia Naval Air Station when a 300 pound depth charge exploded, setting off a chain reaction of 23 more charges. Thirty-three aircraft and at least 15 buildings across the base were destroyed. Many were killed and a number of individuals, including Mr. Isham, were badly hurt.

Following a three month stay at Norfolk Naval Hospital in Portsmouth, Virginia, Mr. !sham bravely returned to duty and was transferred to Quonset Point Naval Air Station in Rhode Island, where he taught courses on aircraft structures. Following a year in Rhode Island, Mr. Isham was transferred to Corvallis, Oregon, and became a Plane Captain on a F4U Corsair fighter aircraft.

Mr. Isham was discharged from the United States Navy on December 10, 1945. He was only rated as 10% disabled as a result of shrapnel wounds sustained during the tragic explosion in Norfolk, Virginia. He was awarded the Good Conduct Medal, the American Area Campaign Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal.

Recently, my office in Las Vegas worked with Robert and the Department of Veterans Affairs to increase his disability rating to 100%, ensuring he receives the benefits he deserved.

Mr. Speaker, as we approach Memorial Day, we will take time to remember many members of the Greatest Generation who have passed away. Today, I ask the House to pause for a moment of gratitude in honor of my constituent, Mr. Robert "Bob" Isham, a member of the Greatest Generation and a decorated American hero.

90TH ANNIVERSARY OF U.S. FOREIGN AND AMERICAN FOREIGN SERVICE ASSOCIATION

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 90th Anniversary of the U.S. Foreign Service and the American Foreign Service Association. Created by the Foreign Services Act of 1924, the Foreign Service brought together the U.S. State Department's Diplomatic Service and Consular Service to be the face, heart and soul of America abroad. Through a World War and various hot and cold wars across the globe since, the men and women of the Foreign Service have played vital roles in representing the United States of America, serving U.S. citizens, and securing U.S. interest near and far.

Much has changed since the initial formation of the Foreign Service following World War I. But a few things have remained the same over these ninety years. Among them are the professionalism and dedication of those who often leave the creature comforts we have come to enjoy on our hallowed shores to serve in remote and distant places often with little recognition or notoriety for a cause far greater than themselves. I rise today to recognize them not only for the crises they led U.S. through, but also for the many crises they allowed our country to avert through their diligence, intellect, intuition, compassion and steely resolve to be champions for peace, democracy and basic humanity. I rise to recognize them for the service, care and comfort they provide to our citizens while abroad reminding them that the supporting hand of American is never far away.

Our world has become more globally networked and intertwined since the early days of "hand shake, face-to-face" diplomacy. Revolution can start in days now not months. Economic interests often go crosswise with security, social, or political interests. Adversaries on some issues are often allies on others and we look to the members of the Foreign Service to navigate and represent the nuances of American foreign policy. Yet time after time, year after year, crisis after crisis, issue after issue they have always owned up to the challenge and America and the world are the better for it.

Not only do we celebrate today the 90th Anniversary of the Foreign Service but also the 90th Anniversary of the American Foreign Services Association (AFSA) which was formed as the professional association of the modem Foreign Service and later became the official representative and advocate for our Foreign Service professionals. Initially formed with the Foreign Service in mind, the Association has expanded to represent not only Foreign Service retired and active employees of the Department of State and USAID but also the distinguished Foreign Agricultural Service and Foreign Commercial Service employees, Broadcasting Board of Governors and Foreign Service employees at the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service . We stand today to celebrate this wonderful organization that has for ninety years served those who serve us.

Through the years AFSA has been stellar in fulfilling its mission of promoting a strong, effective professional career Foreign Service as the institutional backbone of American diplomacy, enhancing the effectiveness of the Foreign Service, protecting the professional interests and rights of its members, ensuring the maintenance of high professional standards for all American diplomats, career or political appointees, and promoting understanding of the critical role of diplomacy and development in promoting America's national security and economic prosperity. AFSA has been and continues to be an effective voice and strong advocate for the Foreign Service with it members' management, the Congress and the American public.

Finally, Mr. Speaker we can take comfort in this year of celebrating the Foreign Service's 90th Anniversary that whether it is a crisis in

Ukraine, a civil war in Syria, conflict and suffering in Africa, trade in North America or peace in the Middle East for example, our Foreign Service is there in fact and in spirit reflecting the best of who we are as a country and for that we say "Thank You" and congratulations on your 90th Anniversary.

WATER RESOURCES REFORM AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2014

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I strongly commend Chairman SHUSTER and Ranking Member RAHALL for bringing conference report for the Water Resources and Reform Development Act to the floor. It represents a great bipartisan effort on one of Congress' true article one responsibilities, providing for America's infrastructure. In northeast Georgia, the Savannah Harbor Expansion Project (SHEP) means jobs. Georgia's 9th Congressional District shipped more than 10,780 tons of goods through Georgia ports in 2013 alone. As a member of the Georgia House of Representatives, I fought for Georgia's investment in SHEP to get the project moving, and now as a member of the United States House of Representatives, I'm proud to vote in favor of the federal government living up to its promise of matching funds. Deepening this harbor from 42 to 47 feet will allow new supertankers to use the port to transport Georgia products all over the world.

There are a number of good reforms in this bill that will increase efficiency and reduce the cost of upcoming projects. A provision of the bill will limit the length and cost of Army Corps of Engineers feasibility studies, so that projects can be completed on schedule and on budget. This bill deauthorizes over $18 billion of old, inactive projects, more than offsetting the authorizations in this bill. WRRDA also sunsets the authorization of any project authorized by the bill after 7 years if construction has not begun.

Any piece of legislation aimed at reform has room for improvement. Language included in the underlying bill regarding the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River (ACF) and the Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa River (ACT) Systems was far from perfect. No language in this bill implies any Congressional intent to interfere with states' work on this important issue. This dispute has been ongoing for a number of years, and Congress interjecting will not bring about a more favorable outcome to any of the parties involved. Water supply disputes are best handled at the state level, and I trust that the governors of the affected states will come together and resolve the issue without Congressional intervention.

Overall, I am very supportive of this bill and urge its adoption.

HOWARD P. ''BUCK'' McKEON NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4435) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Chair, I rise today in opposition to the Shimkus amendment and efforts to undermine the continued success of the Internet.

The Internet has always been driven by consensus decision-making, or multistakeholder governance. This model brings together industry, civil society, government, technical and academic experts, as well the general public, to tackle issues around the design and operation of the Internet.

Three time in the past two years, this body has voted to reaffirm our commitment to the multistakeholder model, including last May when Democrats and Republicans joined together to unanimously pass H.R. 1580, a bill stating that ''it is the policy of the United States to preserve and advance the successful multistakeholder model that governs the Internet.''

So what exactly is the problem with the amendment before us today? It's a U-turn. The Shimkus amendment would restrict NTIA's authority to continue what has been U.S. policy since 1998—transitioning the government's role in administering the domain name system to the multistakeholder global community. Although supporters of the amendment characterize it as a stand against anti-democratic nations seeking a greater government role in Internet management, the amendment could have the opposite effect of emboldening efforts by authoritarian regimes to seize control of the global Internet. Specifically, authoritarian regimes point to the U.S. government's continued oversight of technical Internet functions as evidence that global Internet governance and management should be under the control of a governmental or intergovernmental entity such as the United Nations.

The Shimkus Amendment lacks a fundamental understanding of the U.S. government's role in the management of the global Internet domain name system. Contrary to assertions that the United States ''controls'' the Internet through an ongoing contract that the Administration is now proposing to terminate, NTIA's role has always been ministerial and largely symbolic. Simply put, the U.S. government has never had any legal or statutory responsibility to manage the domain name system.

The world is watching and now is not the time to turn our backs on a governance model that has the enabled the Internet to flourish. I urge my colleagues to take a stand for a global Internet free from government control and vote ''no'' on the Shimkus amendment.

HOWARD P. ''BUCK'' McKEON NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROL SHEA-PORTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4435) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Mr. Chair, due to sequester cuts, the Department of Defense (DoD) needs to increase efficiency and lower costs wherever it can, but this costly amendment prevents DoD from hiring the most cost-efficient workforce. It also would prevent DoD from ever correcting, through insourcing, any contract that costs too much or is poorly performed, period—regardless of the increased costs to taxpayers.

According to the Government Accountability Office, DoD reports savings of almost $1 trillion through insourcing in FY10 alone. In 2013, the DoD Comptroller acknowledged in a Senate hearing that civilian employees are significantly cheaper than contractors, particularly for the performance of long-term functions. So why would anyone want to make it impossible for DoD to save money by correcting overly costly or poorly-performed contracts, especially in a time of shrinking defense budgets? DoD can't afford this amendment, and neither can American taxpayers. Please join me in opposing this costly and wasteful amendment.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in support of our nation's veterans and express my views regarding H.R. 4031, the Department of Veterans Affairs Management Accountability Act of 2014.

This weekend the nation will mark the occasion of Memorial Day the time our nation pauses to recognize the valor, and self-sacrifice of our nation's veterans.

We must remember that freedom is not free.

That is why the timing of the disclosure is especially troubling regarding accusations made by a whistleblower about the treatment of veterans seeking healthcare at the Phoenix Veterans medical facility.

Now, more than ever, we must renew our commitment to keep our promises to the nation's more than 2 million troops and reservists, their families, and 23 million veterans.

The Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center located in Houston, Texas serves the 32,477 veterans who I have the privilege of representing in my Congressional District.

The Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center serves as the primary healthcare provider for almost 130,000 veterans in southeast Texas.

Veterans from around the country are referred to the DeBakey VA Medical Center for specialized diagnostic care, radiation therapy, surgery, and medical treatment including cardiovascular surgery, gastrointestinal endoscopy, nuclear medicine, ophthalmology, and treatment of spinal cord injury and diseases.

DeBakey VA Medical Center provide vital healthcare services to Veterans in the Houston area and through the nation. The Medical Center houses:

A Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Clinic;

Network Polytrauma Center;

an award-winning Cardiac and General Surgery Program;

Liver Transplant Center;

VA Epilepsy and Cancer Centers of Excellence;

VA Substance Abuse Disorder Quality Enhancement Research Initiative;

Health Services Research & Development Center of Innovation;

VA Rehabilitation Research of Excellence focusing on mild to moderate traumatic brain injury;

Mental Illness Research, Education and Clinical Center; and

one of the VA's six Parkinson's Disease Research, Education, and Clinical Centers.

In late 2012, the MEDVAMC received official designation as a Kidney Transplant Center. Including the outpatient clinics in Beaumont, Conroe, Galveston, Houston, Katy, Lufkin, Richmond, Tomball and Texas City, MEDVAMC outpatient clinics log more than a million outpatient visits annually.

Earlier this week I joined other members of the Congressional Women's Caucus for the Wreath Laying Ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery to remember the contributions of women who served our nation proudly in uniform.

Veterans are told that the care that they need can be found at Veteran medical facilities around the nation and we must be certain that they have access to the care that is provided.

The veterans who have served our nation deserve better than what we have been made aware of due to the disclosures related to the Arizona VA facility in Phoenix.

It has been reported that physicians at the Phoenix Veterans Hospital ignored mandates to prioritize treatment of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans.

The placement of veterans on secret waiting lists who later died is unconscionable and should be criminally investigated if proven to be true.

The Veterans facilities serving veterans in Houston, to my knowledge, are not under investigation regarding these terrible reports related to accusations of mistreatment of our nation's veterans.

I know that there are concerns regarding the implications of H.R. 4031 on civil service protection for federal employees at the Veterans Administration.

I am mindful of those concerns, but I am also very focused on making sure that our veterans receive the healthcare that they need.

Should this bill become law, I will make sure that veterans received the care they need, while monitoring how the authority provided under this bill is used.

The intent of this bill should not be solely for the removal of people from federal service unless there is cause for such action—like in the case of the Phoenix reports if proven to be true.

Falsifying federal records that may lead to the deaths or further degradation of health of our nation's veterans if true should disqualify a person from federal employment and the receipt of bonuses.

Our nation's veterans need help now—not later.

The work that Congress along with the Administration can do today to make sure that the promises made to our veterans and their families are kept should be done.

The bill would authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to remove any individual from the Senior Executive Service upon determining that such individual's performance warrants removal, and remove such individual from federal service or transfer the individual to a General Schedule position at any grade that the Secretary deems appropriate.

A part of the important job of our Nation's Secretary of Veterans Affairs is to administer a national hospital system for our nation's veterans.

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs needs more than just the power to fire, but the authority and means to hire hospital and facility administrators at competitive rates when compared to the private sector.

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs needs the ability to make decisions regarding distribution of resources and facility management.

The Secretary must have the ability to make decisions and the power to act on whether to open additional facilities or enter into agreements with private or other public hospital systems to meet the healthcare needs of returning Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans along with the needs of our aging veteran population who have increased need for healthcare.

The Veterans Administration needs Congressional intervention by making sure that the Secretary can be held fully accountable for how the Department functions because they have the authority and the means to manage the agency as it should be managed.

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs would always be ultimately accountable to the oversight of Congressional Committees, and must provide greater transparency to veterans and their families on what the agency is doing to meet the needs of veterans.

But it is within our power as Members of Congress to make sure that our nation's veterans receive the best medical care that modern medicine has to offer to them and their families.

In the State of Texas we have over a million Veterans under the age of 65 and nearly a half million who are over the age of 65.

I believe that a message of unity is critical to the wellbeing of our men and women in uniform and those transitioning out of uniformed service to our nation.

Veterans share a kinship in ways that too few Americans who have not served can understand.

Our men and women in the military have fulfilled a commitment to this nation and to each other that we should imitate in our actions to work to provide for veterans now that their military service has ended.

Today, I want to renew my commitment to our nation's veterans by encouraging my colleagues to act to keep the nation's promises to them.

Congress must communicate its wholehearted support for the security of the nation by addressing mindless cuts created by sequestration.

I firmly believe that Congress must act to care for our soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen, both on and off the battlefield.

I believe that the nation's concern for their wellbeing must be more than in words, but must be reflected in deeds.

Veterans demonstrate a love of country and a measure of devotion making us proud as their Representatives, but we must offer to each veteran a level of comfort that the promises made to them will be kept.

Their quiet dignity sets aside concerns for self because their vision is broader than the moments of partisanship that we see too often in Washington, DC.

I ask that my colleagues remember the damage done to the budget of the Veterans Administration through cuts, sequestration, and the government shutdown.

Mr. Speaker, it is my hope that the passion that I see in the actions and words of fellow Members of the House will translate into a long-term commitment to mend what is broken at the VA and strengthen what is working well.

We should recognize the great work being done by a majority of doctors, nurses, therapists, and medical aides at the dozens of veterans medical facilities around the nation.

We must remember that the leadership at Veterans Affairs needs the funding and authority to make decisions regarding implementing solutions to overcome challenges of providing the best care possible to our nation's veterans.

We should seek reports on the ability of the VA to meet the challenge of the returning veterans from Afghanistan and Iraq as well as the needs of Veterans from previous wars with the current level of funding, personnel, offices, and medical facilities.

I am in support of our veterans and seek a bipartisan solution to resolving the problems with VA backlogs and the treatment of veterans and their families.

HOWARD P. ''BUCK'' McKEON NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4435) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr Chair, for the past year, the House Armed Services Committee has conducted an ''Oversight of the Asia Pacific Rebalance.'' This initiative was brought forth by the collective leadership of Chairman BUCK MCKEON and Ranking Member ADAM SMITH. I would also recognize Chairman RANDY FORBES and Congresswoman COLLEEN HANABUSA for their great efforts on this critical committee engagement,

culminating in their legislative contributions to the NDAA we consider here today.

Without question, the Asia Pacific Rebalance constitutes one of America's most important military and security policies. The Chairman and I both represent districts in a state with vast ties to the Asia Pacific—whether political, security, military, economic, cultural, social and even people-to-people exchange. We also have a vibrant Asian American community in our state that is an embodiment of our relationship with this critically important region.

It is within this context that I wish to raise an important issue and one that I feel is central to the Asia Pacific Rebalance. Let me be clear that I feel this issue is both germane to the jurisdiction of this committee and our consideration of the NDAA on the Floor.

As you and our colleagues on this committee are well aware, more than 200,000 young women and girls from throughout Asia and the Pacific, but mainly from Korea, were forced to become sex slaves during World War II by the Imperial Armed Forces of Japan. For over 70 years, these women endured unspeakable and nightmarish ordeals and have yet to receive a formal apology.

There are those who believe that the Comfort Women issue is a controversial historical dispute that is not germane to our committee's jurisdiction or the NDAA. I fundamentally disagree. As a case in point, during President Obama's recent Asia trip a couple of weeks ago, he specifically brought up the Comfort Women issue. At a joint press conference with Korean President Park Geun-Hye, President Obama stated that what happened to the Comfort Women was ''terrible and egregious,'' that these ''women deserved to be heard and respected'' and that ''there should be an accurate and clear account of what happened.'' President Obama made these remarks in the context of U.S.-Korea-Japan relations and the Asia Rebalance.

The Comfort Women survivors are dying by the day. Of the over 200,000 survivors less than 100 are still alive today. As a matter of valuing women's rights and human rights, these Comfort Women survivors deserve the dignity of a formal apology by the Japanese Government. I further urge Japan to follow the recommendations set forth in H. Res. 121 that was authored by my friend and colleague, Representative MICHAEL HONDA and passed the House on June 30, 2007. Proper resolution to this issue yields the benefit of closer U.S.-Korea-Japan trilateral relations which is critical to countering the North Korean nuclear threat and enhancing security ties with our allies.

Mr. Chair, I wish to reiterate the importance of this issue to our committee, our constituents, our state, our nation and our allies. I urge my colleagues to also offer expressions of support for the Comfort Women survivors.

CELEBRATING LOU WEINTRAUB

HON. AMI BERA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. BERA of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lou Weintraub. The oldest veteran in the Sacramento Jewish Community, Lou turned 100 earlier this year and will be honored at the Jewish Memorial Day Commemoration this weekend for his years of commitment to the Sacramento County community.

Born to Polish immigrant parents in New York in 1914, Lou and his two siblings were children of the Depression. He attended City College of New York, and later the University of Pennsylvania. Soon after, he served as a clinical psychologist in the military for four years during World War II.

A longtime executive with San Francisco's Jewish Community Federation before he retired, Lou has worked with and served on the board of many commissions and nonprofits in the Sacramento region, where he moved in 1989 after meeting his wife.

He continues to be very active, delivering food to the home-bound for Meals-A-La-Car and on the boards of both the Community Services Planning Council and the Friends of the Sacramento Public Library. He is currently the Vice-Chair of the Emergency Food and Shelter Board.

Lou is also an active congregant of Mosaic Law Congregation, attending its Daily Minyan and Shabbat and holiday services. He is known to regularly hold court after the services where at lunch in the social hall he is surrounded by people of all ages taking in his wisdom.

Lou's wife Roslyn summed him up best when she told the Sacramento Bee earlier this year, ''What I see about Lou is that he cares more about other people than himself. He's always caring about somebody else.''

Thank you, Lou, for caring, and for your continued dedication to the Sacramento area community.

SUPPORTING THE NAVY EA–18G ''GROWLER''

HON. JASON T. SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the House Armed Services Committee (HASC) and its Chairman, BUCK MCKEON, on passage of the National Defense Authorization Act FY15 today that includes funding for additional Navy EA–18G ''Growler'' aircraft as well as language to stretch the EA–18G and FA–18 E/F lines in St. Louis, Missouri.

I recently visited the F–18 line in St. Louis, Missouri near my district. Like many Members I have an F–18 supplier in my district. Without additional funding, this line will shut down and we as a nation will lose a national asset including thousands of dedicated and talented workers who make up this defense industrial base.

But the EA–18G is about more than just jobs—it is about supporting our warfighter. The U.S. Navy has clearly stated before Congress this year that it has a requirement for additional EA–18G airborne electronic attack aircraft that are vital to current and future operations—both for the Navy and other services. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the coming weeks, especially on the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, to help address this clear Navy and joint war fighting requirement. The warfighter needs the EA–18G and we in Congress need to continue to support our warfighters.

SUPPORTING CONTINUED PRODUCTION OF THE EA–18G ''GROWLER''

HON. WILLIAM L. ENYART

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. ENYART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the House Armed Services Committee (HASC) and its Chairman, BUCK MCKEON, and Ranking Member SMITH, on passage of the FY15 Defense Authorization Bill (H.R. 4435) today that includes funding for additional Navy EA–18G ''Growler'' aircraft as well as language to continue the EA–18G and F/A–18 E/F lines in St. Louis, Missouri.

During this year's deliberations of the President's budget request, the committee received a request from the Navy for an unfunded requirement for 22 additional airborne electronic attack (AEA) aircraft—the EA–18G Growler. The Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Admiral Greenert outlined the growing need to control the electromagnetic spectrum to support the warfighter. The CNO indicated to the Committee that the current level of AEA aircraft in the Navy inventory was just meeting the operational needs in today's world. However, based on increasing demands and a projected difficult operational environments in the future, the Navy requested 22 additional EA–18G Growlers. It is this Growler that can meet these expanding and stressing AEA operational requirements.

I have a number of constituents that commute to work on the production line in St. Louis, and like many members have F/A–18 suppliers in my district. Without additional funding for EA–18G aircraft, this important production line will shut down and we as a nation will lose a national asset—including thousands of dedicated and talented workers who make up this defense industrial base.

But the EA–18G is about more than jobs—it is about supporting our warfighter. The Navy has clearly made its case before Congress that it has a growing operational requirement for additional EA–18G aircraft that are vital to current and future operations—both for the Navy and other services.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the coming weeks, especially on the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, to help address this clear Navy requirement. We need to support our warfighter needs and the EA–18G Growler is key to operating and prevailing in the important airborne electronic attack environment.

PLANT OF THE YEAR IN NORTH AMERICA

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate TRW Automotive's Fowlerville, Michigan facility on earning Quality magazine's ''Plant of the Year in North America'' award for quality, safety and continuous

improvement. Employing more than 200 people, the Fowlerville plant manufactures slip control braking systems. The plant, like all of TRW's, can be recognized for its use of a visual management system that uses a color coded process to track production for safety and quality.

TRW had sales of $17 billion last year, and supplies dozens of major car manufacturers with safety and component parts. It has more than 65,000 employees globally. The Fowlerville plant, together with its neighboring plant in Fenton, contributed roughly $360 million in annual sales in 2012. The two plants share a management team, as well as best practices.

With dedicated effort to quality, Michigan manufacturers continue to prove ''Made in U.S.A.'' is not a thing of the past. I am proud of TRW's Fowlerville plant and I am proud of Michigan's manufacturing tradition.

RECOGNIZING THE SUSAN G. KOMEN TWIN TIERS REGION ''RACE FOR THE CURE''

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Susan G. Komen Twin Tiers Region ''Race for the Cure'' on another successful event this year. This event, which was held for the 16th consecutive year, took place on Sunday, May 18, 2014 in Elmira, New York.

This race is a bold statement of unity among the survivors of breast cancer, the friends and families who support the ongoing search for a cure, and those who are currently fighting this disease. The annual event has raised over $1 million for projects focusing on cancer research, prevention, and treatment. Seventy-five percent of this money has remained in the Southern Tier, directly benefiting thousands of my constituents.

Breast cancer affects millions of individuals in the United States each year, including countless friends, family members, and neighbors in my congressional district. For far too long, this disease has taken away our loved ones; an estimated 40,000 people will die from breast cancer this year. As a nation, we must continue to support every victim of breast cancer and show steadfast resolve in our efforts to find a cure for this disease.

Thanks to the hard work of Komen Twin Tiers Region staff and over 200 volunteers, more than 1,000 people participated in this year's ''Race for the Cure.'' Every person involved in the event displayed their unwavering determination to finding a cure for breast cancer and supporting those affected by this disease.

I especially appreciate the work of Scott Heffner and Megan Burns, co-chairs of the race, who were primarily responsible for the success of this event. I am confident that the hard work of dedicated individuals like Scott and Megan will continue to benefit victims and survivors of breast cancer as we continue working together toward a cure for this horrible disease.

HONORING ISAIAH HUTSON SALINAS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Isaiah Hutson Salinas. Isaiah is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 152, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Isaiah has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Isaiah has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Isaiah has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Isaiah planned and coordinated a project to remove the asphalt shingles from a hiking shelter at Jay Cooke State Park in Carlton, Minnesota, and replace them with a metal roof.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Isaiah Hutson Salinas for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

BOW YOUR HEADS IN HONOR OF ALL THE FALLEN THIS MEMORIAL DAY

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, on this Memorial Day I rise in honor and remembrance, and gratitude for all of those families of the Armed Forces who gave That Last Full Measure in the name of Freedom. Carry them with you in your hearts this holiday and say a prayer for all of them and their families. I ask that this poem penned in their honor by Albert Carey Caswell be placed in the RECORD.

BOW YOUR HEADS

(By Albert Carey Caswell)

Bow your heads . . .
And close your eyes . . .
And say a prayer for all those girls and guys . . .
And all of those families who now so cry!
Our most brilliant of all men and women of the military,
our GI's!
Army, Navy, Air Force, and The United States Marines,
no greater gift can so be seen!
And this Memorial Day,
please . . . please . . . please remember why!
We are free,
so you and I!
And remember that throughout the world,
all in such deep dark cold ground lies someone's little boy or girl!
Who But For The Greater Good,
so gave That Last Full Measure in all they could!
As the angels up in heaven began to cry!
Thank them for the gifts they gave!
Thank them for teaching us all how heroes behave!
On this Memorial Day!
As all of those families,
so wipe the tears away!
And all of those children at night,
with tears in eyes so lie awake!
Now bow your heads . . .
And close your eyes . . .
Upon, your knees!
Say a prayer,
for all of these most heroic girls and guys!
And all of those families,
who now so cry!
And why we are free,
I bid you please remember why!
Bow your heads!
Amen!

HOWARD P. ''BUCK'' McKEON NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY McNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4435) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. MCNERNEY. Madam Chair, I want to thank Chairman MCKEON and Ranking Member SMITH for their work on this critical legislation, The National Defense Authorization Act.

I believe that it is our sacred obligation to help the men and women who served our country find good-paying jobs in today's economy and transition seamlessly from active duty to the civilian labor market. The men and women in the U.S. Armed Forces receive first class training in the military and develop skills that are valuable in the civilian workforce. Too often, they return home and find it challenging to obtain employment.

The underlying bill authorizes a pilot program to connect civilian employing agencies with service members who are leaving the military and entering the civilian workforce. I offered an amendment that requires the Secretary of Defense to consider how those agencies will work with state and county Veterans Affairs offices, as well as National Guard offices.

Some of the most valuable resources and information that troops and veterans receive come from their local VA and National Guard offices. Their dedicated professionals have experience and expertise on the front lines and understand the unique needs of service members and veterans.

By coordinating these services, we can more fully assist veterans in a seamless transition from military service to civilian life—and we can start that by helping them find good wage jobs.

Our veterans have earned the thanks of a grateful nation when they return home, and employers can and will benefit from the skills, discipline, and professionalism veterans possess.

I want to thank the Chairman and Ranking Member for including my amendment in this en bloc package.

HONORING OUR COURAGEOUS NURSES

HON. KERRY L. BENTIVOLIO

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. Mr. Speaker, you can always identify them in a crowd wearing blue, green, pink, and yellow, and sometimes wearing a white coat. They have wings on their backs and many times a tired, tilted halo over their heads. They often miss holidays and similar events with family and friends. They work during times the rest of us sleep 24/7. They are educators who provide a concerned ear and empathetic heart, a smile supported by professionalism, and an unmatched sense of selfless service for those in need. They are angels of mercy. May God bless our courageous nurses, and especially this week. Mr. Speaker, may I say to that special nurse in my life: I love you.

CORRECTION

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate agreed to the conference report to accompany H.R. 3080, Water Resources Reform and Development Act.

House passed H.R. 4435, National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S3245–S3311

Measures Introduced: Twenty-nine bills and eleven resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2381–2409, S.J. Res. 36, S. Res. 455–463, and S. Con. Res. 36. **Pages S3293–95**

Measures Reported:

Special Report entitled ''Allocation to Subcommittees of Budget Totals for Fiscal Year 2015''. (S. Rept. No. 113–163)

S. 2389, making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015. (S. Rept. No. 113–164)

S. 37, to sustain the economic development and recreational use of National Forest System land and other public land in the State of Montana, to add certain land to the National Wilderness Preservation System, to release certain wilderness study areas, to designate new areas for recreation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 113–165)

S. 258, to amend the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to improve the management of grazing leases and permits, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 113–166)

S. 715, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to use designated funding to pay for construction of authorized rural water projects, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 113–167)

S. 782, to amend Public Law 101–377 to revise the boundaries of the Gettysburg National Military Park to include the Gettysburg Train Station, with an amendment. (S. Rept. No. 113–168)

S. 995, to authorize the National Desert Storm Memorial Association to establish the National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial as a commemorative work in the District of Columbia. (S. Rept. No. 113–169)

S. 1252, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate segments of the Missisquoi River and the Trout River in the State of Vermont, as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. (S. Rept. No. 113–170)

S. 1341, to modify the Forest Service Recreation Residence Program as the program applies to units of the National Forest System derived from the public domain by implementing a simple, equitable, and predictable procedure for determining cabin user fees, with an amendment. (S. Rept. No. 113–171)

H.R. 1033, to authorize the acquisition and protection of nationally significant battlefields and associated sites of the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 under the American Battlefield Protection Program, with an amendment. (S. Rept. No. 113–172)

H.R. 2337, to provide for the conveyance of the Forest Service Lake Hill Administrative Site in Summit County, Colorado. (S. Rept. No. 113–173)

H.R. 4486, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 113–174)

S. 2142, to impose targeted sanctions on persons responsible for violations of human rights of antigovernment protesters in Venezuela, to strengthen civil society in Venezuela, with amendments. (S. Rept. No. 113–175) **Page S3293**

Measures Passed:

Light-Duty Motor Vehicles: Senate passed H.R. 724, to amend the Clean Air Act to remove the requirement for dealer certification of new light-duty motor vehicles. **Page S3307**

Coconino National Forest: Senate passed H.R. 862, to authorize the conveyance of two small parcels of land within the boundaries of the Coconino National Forest containing private improvements that were developed based upon the reliance of the landowners in an erroneous survey conducted in May 1960. **Pages S3307–08**

Collinsville Renewable Energy Production Act: Senate passed H.R. 316, to reinstate and transfer certain hydroelectric licenses and extend the deadline for commencement of construction of certain hydroelectric projects, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S3307–08**

North Texas Invasive Species Barrier Act: Committee on Environment and Public Works was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4032, to exempt from Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 certain water transfers by the North Texas Municipal Water District and the Greater Texoma Utility Authority, and the bill was then passed. **Page S3308**

Emergency Drought Relief Act: Senate passed S. 2198, to direct the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to take actions to provide additional water supplies to the State of California due to drought, after agreeing to the following amendments proposed thereto: **Page S3308**

Reid (for Feinstein/Murkowski) Amendment No. 3227, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S3308**

Reid (for Feinstein/Murkowski) Amendment No. 3228, to modify the title. **Page S3308**

Gold Medal to the 65th Infantry Regiment: Senate passed H.R. 1726, to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the 65th Infantry Regiment, known as the Borinqueneers. **Page S3308**

Gold Medal Technical Corrections Act: Senate passed H.R. 4488, to make technical corrections to two bills enabling the presentation of congressional gold medals. **Page S3308**

Older Americans Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 455, designating May 2014 as "Older Americans Month". **Pages S3308–09**

National Foster Care Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 456, recognizing National Foster Care Month as an opportunity to raise awareness about the challenges of children in the foster care system, and encouraging Congress to implement policy to improve the lives of children in the foster care system. **Pages S3308–09**

National Public Works Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 457, designating the week of May 18 through May 24, 2014, as "National Public Works Week". **Pages S3308–09**

Jewish American Heritage Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 458, recognizing May as Jewish American Heritage Month and honoring Holocaust survivors and their contributions to the United States of America. **Pages S3308–09**

National Pediatric Stroke Awareness Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 459, expressing the sense of the Senate with respect to childhood stroke and recognizing May 2014 as "National Pediatric Stroke Awareness Month". **Pages S3308–09**

Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 460, recognizing the significance of May 2014 as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month as an important time to celebrate the significant contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to the history of the United States. **Pages S3308–09**

Honoring James L. Oberstar: Senate agreed to S. Res. 461, honoring James L. Oberstar as a remarkable public servant who served in Congress with extraordinary dedication and purpose. **Pages S3308–09**

Permitting the Use of the Rotunda of the Capitol: Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 36, permitting the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the next of kin or personal representative of Raoul Wallenberg. **Page S3309**

Measures Considered:

Sportsmen's Act: Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting. **Pages S3245–46, S3273–78**

Conference Reports:

Water Resources Reform and Development Act: By 91 yeas to 7 nays (Vote No. 163), Senate agreed to the conference report to accompany H.R. 3080, to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources. **Page S3273**

Signing Authority—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that during the adjournment or recess of the Senate from Friday, May 23, 2014, through Tuesday, June 3, 2014, Senators Rockefeller and Reed be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions. **Page S3309**

Authorizing Leadership To Make Appointments—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that, notwithstanding the upcoming recess or adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President Pro Tempore and the Majority and Minority Leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses, or by order of the Senate. **Page S3309**

Pro Forma—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that Senate adjourn and convene for pro forma sessions only with no business conducted on the following dates and times, and that following each pro forma session, Senate adjourn until the next pro forma session: Friday, May 23, 2014 at 10 a.m.; Tuesday, May 27, 2014 at 12 noon; and Friday, May 30, 2014 at 2 p.m.; and that the Senate adjourn on Friday, May 30, 2014 until 2 p.m., on Monday, June 2, 2014. **Page S3309**

Harper Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Keith M. Harper, of Maryland, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as United States Representative to the UN Human Rights Council. **Page S3284**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and pursuant to the unanimous-consent agreement of Thursday, May 22, 2014, a vote on cloture will occur at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, June 2, 2014. **Page S3284**

Bowen Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Sharon Y. Bowen, of New York, to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission. **Pages S3284–85**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Keith M. Harper, of Maryland, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as United States Representative to the UN Human Rights Council. **Page S3285**

Mastroianni Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Mark Mastroianni, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts. **Page S3285**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Sharon Y. Bowen, of New York, to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission. **Page S3285**

Hendricks Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Bruce Howe Hendricks, of South Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina. **Page S3285**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Mark G. Mastroianni, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts. **Page S3285**

Chutkan Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Tanya S. Chutkan, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia. **Page S3285**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Bruce Howe Hendricks, of South Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina. **Page S3285**

Burwell Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Sylvia Mathews Burwell, of West Virginia, to be Secretary of Health and Human Services. **Pages S3285–86**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Tanya S. Chutkan, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia. **Page S3286**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 53 yeas to 45 nays (Vote No. EX. 162), David Jeremiah Barron, of Massachusetts, to be United States Circuit Judge for the First Circuit. **Page S3272**

Richard G. Frank, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services. **Page S3273**

15 Air Force nominations in the rank of general.

4 Army nominations in the rank of general.

6 Marine Corps nominations in the rank of general.

27 Navy nominations in the rank of admiral.

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and Navy. **Pages S3273, S3305–07, S3309–11**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Bruce H. Andrews, of New York, to be Deputy Secretary of Commerce.

Marcus Dwayne Jadotte, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce.

Marcia Stephens Bloom Bernicat, of New Jersey, to be Ambassador to the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

James D. Pettit, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Moldova.

Laura S. Wertheimer, of the District of Columbia, to be Inspector General of the Federal Housing Finance Agency. **Page S3309**

Messages from the House: **Page S3290**

Petitions and Memorials: **Pages S3290–93**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S3295–97**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S3297–S3303**

Additional Statements: **Pages S3287–90**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S3303–04**

Notices of Hearings/Meetings: **Page S3305**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S3305**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S3305**

Record Votes: Two record votes were taken today. (Total—163) **Pages S3272–73**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:54 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Friday, May 23, 2014. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S3309.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

APPROPRIATIONS: MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, AND FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

Committee on Appropriations: Committee adopted the fiscal year 2015 302(b) allocations.

Also, committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

An original bill making appropriations for Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies for fiscal year 2015; and

An original bill making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for fiscal year 2015.

AUTHORIZATION—DEFENSE

Committee on Armed Services: Committee ordered favorably reported an original bill entitled, ''Carl Levin National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015''.

TRANSIT INFRASTRUCTURE

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Subcommittee on Housing, Transportation and Community Development concluded a hearing to examine bringing our transit infrastructure to a state of good repair, after receiving testimony from Dorval Carter, Chief Counsel, Federal Transit Administration, Department of Transportation; Joseph M. Casey, Southeast Pennsylvania Transportation Authority, Philadelphia; Beverly Scott, Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, Boston; and Gary Thomas, Dallas Area Rapid Transit, Dallas, Texas.

ACCESS AND SUPPORTS FOR SERVICEMEMBERS AND VETERANS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee concluded a hearing to examine access and supports for servicemembers and veterans in higher education, after receiving testimony from Lauren Thompson Starks, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of the Under Secretary, Department of Education; Thomas L. Langdon, Director, State Liaison and Education Opportunities for Military Community and Family Policy, Readiness and Force Management, Department of Defense; William Hubbard, Student Veterans of America, Washington, DC; David Carlson, University of Vermont, Burlington; and Kimrey Rhinehardt, The University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 28 public bills, H.R. 4714–4741; and 5 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 100; and H. Res. 593–596 were introduced. **Pages H4828–30**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H4830–31**

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

USA Freedom Act: The House passed H.R. 3361, to reform the authorities of the Federal Government to require the production of certain business records, conduct electronic surveillance, use pen registers and trap and trace devices, and use other forms of information gathering for foreign intelligence, counterterrorism, and criminal purposes, by a yea-and-nay vote of 303 yeas to 121 nays, Roll No. 230.

Pages H4789–H4804

Pursuant to the rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in part B of H. Rept. 113–460 shall be considered as adopted, in lieu of the amendments in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence now printed in the bill. **Page H4789**

H. Res. 590, the rule providing for further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4435) and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3361), was agreed to yesterday, May 21st.

National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015: The House passed H.R. 4435, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction and to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, by a recorded vote of 325 ayes to 98 noes, Roll No. 240.

Pages H4804–12

Rejected the Peters (CA) motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Armed Services with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with an amendment, by a recorded vote of 194 ayes to 227 noes, Roll No. 239. **Pages H4809–11**

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: ''To authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.''. **Page H4812**

Agreed to:

McKinley amendment (No. 1 printed in part A of H. Rept. 113–460) that was debated on May 21st that prohibits funds for the Administration to conduct any anti-fossil fuel climate change agenda, which includes the National Climate Assessment, the IPCC report, the UN's Agenda 21, and the Social Cost of Carbon (by a recorded vote of 231 ayes to 192 noes, Roll No. 231); **Pages H4804–05**

Shimkus amendment (No. 6 printed in part A of H. Rept. 113–460) that was debated on May 21st that delays relinquishment or agreeing to any proposal relating to the relinquishment of the responsibility of NTIA over Internet domain name system functions by the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information until GAO submits a report to Congress on the role of the NTIA with respect to the Internet domain name system (by a recorded vote of 245 ayes to 177 noes, Roll No. 232); **Page H4805**

Lamborn amendment (No. 17 printed in part A of H. Rept. 113–460) that was debated on May 21st that limits the use of funds for implementing the New START treaty until certification that the Russian Federation is respecting Ukrainian sovereignty and is no longer violating the INF or CFE treaties (by a recorded vote of 233 ayes to 191 noes, Roll No. 236); and **Pages H4807–08**

Blumenauer amendment (No. 24 printed in part A of H. Rept. 113–460) that was debated on May 21st that requires CBO to update, on an annual basis, their report on the projected costs of U.S. nuclear forces (by a recorded vote of 224 ayes to 199 noes, Roll No. 238). **Page H4809**

Rejected:

Smith (WA) amendment (No. 10 printed in part A of H. Rept. 113–460) that was debated on May 21st that sought to provide a framework for closure of the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, by December 31, 2016 (by a recorded vote of 177 ayes to 247 noes, Roll No. 233); **Pages H4805–06**

Smith (WA) amendment (No. 11 printed in part A of H. Rept. 113–460) that was debated on May 21st that sought to eliminate indefinite military detention of any person detained under AUMF authority in the United States, its territories, or possessions, by providing for immediate transfer to trial and proceedings by a court established under the Constitution or any appropriate State court (by a recorded vote of 191 ayes to 230 noes, Roll No. 234); **Pages H4806–07**

Jenkins amendment (No. 15 printed in part A of H. Rept. 113–460) that was debated on May 21st that sought to create a moratorium on the insourcing of previously contracted activities within DOD. Exceptions would be made (1) if the activity was ''inherently governmental'', and thereby should never have been contracted out in the first place; and (2) if DOD would employ a ''reverse A–76'' to itemize specific costs saved to the taxpayer should the DOD be able to perform the commercial activity more efficiently for the taxpayer (by a recorded vote of 179 ayes to 244 noes, Roll No. 235); and **Page H4807**

Schiff amendment (No. 21 printed in part A of H. Rept. 113–460) that was debated on May 21st that sought to sunset the 2001 AUMF effective 12 months from date of enactment of the bill (by a recorded vote of 191 ayes to 233 noes, Roll No. 237). **Pages H4808–09**

Agreed that the Clerk be authorized to make technical and conforming changes to reflect the actions of the House. **Page H4812**

H. Res. 590, the rule providing for further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4435) and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3361), was agreed to yesterday, May 21st.

Meeting Hour: Agreed that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 3 p.m. tomorrow, May 23rd; when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet at 12 noon on Tuesday, May 27th; and when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet on Wednesday, May 28th at 12 noon for Morning Hour Debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business. **Page H4815**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate today appears on page H4804.

Senate Referral: S. 2086 was referred to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure and Energy and Commerce. **Page H4804**

Quorum Calls—Votes: One yea-and-nay vote and 10 recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H4803–04, H4804–05, H4805, H4805–06, H4806–07, H4807, H4807–08, H4808–09, H4809, H4811 and H4811–12. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 2:43 p.m.

Committee Meetings

FEDERAL AND STATE ENFORCEMENT OF FRAUDULENT PATENT DEMAND LETTERS

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade held a hearing on legislation regarding federal and state enforcement of fraudulent patent demand letters. Testimony was heard from Representatives Polis and Marino; and Lois Greisman, Associate Director, Bureau of Consumer Protection; Wendy Morgan, Chief, Public Protection Division, Office of Attorney General of Vermont; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Financial Services: Full Committee concluded a markup on the following legislation: H.R. 4200, the "SBIC Advisers Relief Act"; H.R. 4554, the "Restricted Securities Relief Act"; H.R. 4568, the "Small Business Freedom to Grow Act"; H.R. 4571, to direct the SEC to revise its rules so as to increase the threshold amount for requiring issuers to provide certain disclosures relating to compensatory benefits plans; H.R. 4569, the "Disclosure Modernization and Simplification Act"; H.R. 4570, the "Private Placement Improvement Act"; H.R. 4565, the "Startup Capital Modernization Act"; H.R. 1779, the "Preserving Access to Manufactured Housing Act"; H.R. 2673, the "Portfolio Lending and Mortgage Access Act"; H.R. 4466, the "Financial Regulatory Clarity Act"; and H.R. 4521, the "Community Institution Mortgage Relief Act". The following bills were ordered reported without amendment: H.R. 4200; H.R. 4554; H.R. 4568; H.R. 4570; H.R. 4565; H.R. 1779; H.R. 4521; and H.R. 2673. The following bills were ordered reported, as amended: H.R. 4571; H.R. 4569; and H.R. 4466.

GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL: DEEPENING RIFTS AND EMERGING CHALLENGES

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Middle East and North Africa held a hearing entitled "The Gulf Cooperation Council: Deepening Rifts and Emerging Challenges". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

PROTECTING RELIGIOUS FREEDOM: U.S. EFFORTS TO HOLD ACCOUNTABLE COUNTRIES OF PARTICULAR CONCERN

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations held a hearing entitled "Protecting Religious Freedom: U.S. Efforts to Hold Accountable Countries of Particular Concern". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

EXAMINING INNOVATIVE POSTAL PRODUCTS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, U.S. Postal Service and the Census held a hearing entitled "Examining Innovative Postal Products for the 21st Century". Testimony was heard from James P. Cochrane, Chief Information Officer and Executive Vice President, Postal Service; David C. Williams, Inspector General, Postal Service, Office of Inspector General; and public witnesses.

EVALUATING PUBLIC HOUSING IN THE U.S.: REINING IN WASTE, FRAUD, ABUSE AND MISMANAGEMENT AT PUBLIC HOUSE AUTHORITIES

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Subcommittee on Government Operations held a hearing entitled "Evaluating Public Housing in the U.S.: Reining in Waste, Fraud, Abuse and Mismanagement at Public House Authorities". Testimony was heard from Cecil House, General Manager, New York City Housing Authority; Kelvin Jeremiah,

President and CEO, Philadelphia Housing Authority; and David Montoya, Inspector General, Department of Housing and Urban Development.

UNFAIR TRADE PRACTICES: ADDRESSING BARRIERS FACING SMALL BUSINESS EXPORTERS

Committee on Small Business: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Energy and Trade held a hearing entitled ''Unfair Trade Practices: Addressing Barriers Facing Small Business Exporters''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Full Committee held a markup on a motion to issue subpoenas to Dr. Thomas Lynch, Ms. Joan Mooney, Mr. Michael Huff to compel their testimony on May 30, 2014, for an explanation for the failure of the Department of Veterans Affairs to produce all emails and written correspondence demanded through the previous subpoena duces tecum served on April 8, 2014. The motion was agreed to, as amended.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 4681, the ''Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015''. The bill was ordered reported, as amended.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, MAY 23, 2014

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Friday, May 23

Senate Chamber

Program for Friday: Senate will meet in a pro forma session.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

3 p.m., Friday, May 23

House Chamber

Program for Friday: The House will meet in pro forma session at 3 p.m.

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