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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 18, 2024, at 11 a.m.

Senate

MONDAY, JUNE 17, 2024

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TAMMY DUCKWORTH, a Senator from the State of Illinois.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, our refuge and strength, whose compassion encompasses humanity and whose mercy never fails, empower our Senators to be partners with You in Your redeeming purposes for this Earth. Remind them that the only greatness they will ever know is linked to Your transforming might. As they strive to please You, make them seekers after peace, justice, and freedom.

Lord, transform this storied Chamber of our legislative branch into a place of vision, a lighthouse of hope, and a source of solace for those battered by the raging floods of human disaster and distress. May the Members of this body become architects of a new order of hope, peace, and justice for the people of our Nation and world.

We pray in Your powerful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer 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.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

The senior assistant executive clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 17, 2024.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable TAMMY DUCKWORTH, a Senator from the State of Illinois, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore.

Ms. DUCKWORTH thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 4541

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I understand that there is a bill at the desk that is due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The senior assistant executive clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4541) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make certain provisions with respect to qualified ABLE programs permanent.

Mr. SCHUMER. In order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceeding.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 4554

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I understand that there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The senior assistant executive clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4554) to express support for protecting access to reproductive health care after the Dobbs v. Jackson decision on June 24, 2022.

Mr. SCHUMER. I now ask for a second reading, and in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

The majority leader.

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



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S4099

REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM FOR WOMEN ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, a few moments ago, I took the first procedural step to place on the legislative calendar the Reproductive Freedom for Women Act, sponsored by Senator MURRAY and myself and cosponsored by all the women Senators on our side. This measure affirms a woman's fundamental right to choose and calls for enshrining the protections of *Roe v. Wade* into law, as most Americans say they want.

I thank Senator MURRAY and all of my colleagues who cosponsored the Reproductive Freedom for Women Act, and I will work to bring it to the floor.

We are only halfway through June, but it has already been a dismal month for MAGA Republicans and their attacks on reproductive freedoms. In the last 2 weeks, Senate Republicans have shown that, for all their attempts to sound moderate on reproductive freedom, when it comes time to vote, they are falling in line with MAGA extremists.

This month, Senate Republicans have already blocked legislation protecting commonsense reproductive care, like contraception and IVF, as the Acting President pro tempore knows well. House Republicans, meanwhile, voted overwhelmingly on Friday to pass the Defense funding bill, with hard-right poison pills restricting access to reproductive care for our servicemembers.

And Donald Trump, while speaking to Republicans on Capitol Hill last week, once again attacked the decision of *Roe* and said abortion should be left to the States, even if States pass terrible restrictions on women's freedoms, as is happening all over the country.

Republicans cannot escape a simple reality: Their record on women's healthcare is dangerously out of step with the views of most Americans. Poll after poll affirms that a majority of Americans disapproved of the Supreme Court's decision to overturn *Roe*.

So I will say it again: So many Senate Republicans and so many House Republicans will try to talk like moderates on reproductive freedoms, but their own record is irrefutably against them. And when it comes time to vote, they vote against women and reproductive freedoms over and over again. The American people know that when it comes to protecting their fundamental freedoms, actions speak louder than words.

Republicans can't claim to be pro-contraception but then block Federal protections for contraception. But that is just what they did a few weeks ago.

Republicans can't also claim to be pro-family but then block Federal protections for IVF. But, once again, that is just what they did a few days ago.

Remember, Donald Trump, to this day, continues to brag about his role in eliminating *Roe*, aided by Republicans in this Chamber who voted to confirm not one, not two, but three hard-right Supreme Court Justices with the goal of overturning *Roe*.

Make no mistake. The MAGA extremists aren't done. If they get the chance, they will push for their ultimate goal of a national abortion ban.

Many Republicans say a national abortion ban is plain old fearmongering. But, remember, these same Republicans weren't even able to stand up to the MAGA right long enough to support a simple IVF bill. Do we really trust them to resist the MAGA right when it pushes a national abortion ban? Of course, not.

With November fast approaching, Republicans continue to show the American people where they really are: with MAGA extremists and not with the majority of America. That is what Republican Senators and House Members are doing.

BUMP STOCKS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, now on bump stocks, last Friday, the MAGA Supreme Court struck once again, saying the Federal Government cannot prohibit the use of bump stocks—the accessory responsible for the deadliest shooting in American history.

Nearly 7 years ago, a lone shooter fired over 1,000 rounds in just 10 minutes upon a crowd of concertgoers in Las Vegas. Sixty innocent people were murdered; another 850 were injured. This was all possible because the shooter modified his rifles to function, essentially, as machine guns. The ATF under the Trump administration—under the Trump administration—banned the use of these accessories shortly after the Las Vegas shooting.

Yet on Friday, the MAGA Court reached the incredible conclusion that weapons modified to act like machine guns, to fire bullets at almost the same rate as machine guns, and in which, in Judge Alito's own admission, do not show "any material difference" with machine guns are somehow not machine guns, which have been banned for a very long time, since the 1930s.

Friday's ruling is yet another warning that this MAGA Court is going off the deep end, aligning itself more and more with the most extreme elements of the hard right. They have struck down freedom of choice, environmental protections, affirmative action, fair redistricting, gun safety, and more. The MAGA Supreme Court is now even further to the right of Donald Trump, who is very hard right himself.

So this week, the Senate will step in to try and fix the chaos the MAGA Court just unleashed. As soon as tomorrow, Democrats will seek passage of a Federal ban on bump stocks. I urge my Republican colleagues not to block Senator HEINRICH when he comes to the floor. He is the author of the bill banning bump stocks and leading the charge to get it passed quickly.

Passing a bill banning bump stocks should be the work of 5 minutes. Most Americans support this step. Poll after poll show that a majority of people, in-

cluding Independents, support restrictions on AR-15-style rifles, which is what bump stocks are designed to emulate.

I understand that the issue of gun safety provokes intense disagreement in Congress, but shouldn't we all agree that preventing another tragedy like Las Vegas is just plain common sense and a good thing? Banning bump stocks would go a long way to making it harder for murderers to carry out large shootings. So I hope our Republican colleagues join us.

Two years ago this month, Democrats and Republicans showed America that even something as controversial as gun safety can get passed when both sides are willing to work in good faith. I was very proud, as majority leader, and so proud of Members like Senator MURPHY and Senator SINEMA who worked hard on passing this legislation.

Democrats are ready to pass gun safety once again, as soon as tomorrow. The question is, Will Republicans join us? Will Republicans join us to prevent another tragedy like Las Vegas and vote to ban deadly bump stocks?

Republicans were supportive of banning bump stocks when the Trump administration took this step, so they should support it tomorrow.

Will Republicans stand up to the gun lobby and side with parents and teachers and law enforcement who worry about violence striking their communities without warning?

Will Senate Republicans resist the pull of MAGA extremism and embrace bipartisanship so once again we can keep people safe?

I hope the answer is yes. I hope we can repeat the success of 2 years ago when we passed the first major gun safety bill in 30 years since I led the passage of the Brady bill in Congress. I was a Congressman then.

We have a long way to go to cure America's disease of gun violence. Today, you don't need to show people the statistics. Americans know violence is disgustingly unacceptable. They can feel it in their bones. They are worried about where they go. They go into public spaces and instinctively look for exits. Sometimes just a loud noise can frighten people in public.

And now this MAGA Court has undone the ban on bump stocks that will make it easier for deranged individuals to turn their weapons into near machine guns.

If my Republican colleagues want to do the right thing for the country, the answer is very simple: Join us—every one of you—to ban bump stocks so that we never see the kind of carnage we saw in Las Vegas NV, ever, ever again.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum. The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

NATIONAL DEFENSE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, last week, the Armed Services Committee voted to recommend a \$25 billion increase to topline defense spending.

In overwhelming bipartisan fashion, our colleagues rejected a fourth straight budget request from the Biden administration that failed to keep pace with inflation, much less the threat of China.

If this major investment is actually appropriated, it will be an overdue step toward equipping America's Armed Forces to meet an increasingly dangerous world.

But shortly after the committee's action, senior Senate Democrats shattered any expectation that they were ready to start taking the requirements of national defense seriously. They began with myths about the past.

The Democratic leader suggested in a statement that "Democrats have led the way in ensuring our military is the best trained and best equipped fighting force in the world."

Really? Guess again. Every year, Republicans have led efforts to secure defense spending beyond President Biden's meager requests.

When the administration initially wanted the Pentagon to pay for increasing operational costs in Europe out of hide, without backfill, it took Republicans demanding additional appropriations to buy new weapons to replace the older ones we were providing Ukraine.

For his part, our colleague from New York blocked an amendment to the infrastructure bill in 2021 that would have made an historic investment in the defense industrial base, and this was actually before the Russian escalation. And then Senate Democrats voted in lockstep to block a similar one during budget reconciliation.

All around the world, America's adversaries are offering clear and alarming reminders of how rapidly modern warfare is changing. The battlefields of Ukraine have become a laboratory for fast-evolving concepts like unmanned aerial vehicles, electronic warfare, and air defenses. Iran's war on Israel, America, and international shipping highlights the growing importance of long-range weapons and air and missile defense. And China's military modernization, from its strategic rocket force to its navy, underscores the stakes of neglecting our own defense in bold, red ink.

These threats offer us essential lessons about the deficiencies of our own

capabilities; that is, if we choose to act on them. America is literally years behind in building the sort of production capacity we need to sustain effective deterrence or win decisively if war actually comes.

The administration deserves credit for taking production of 155-millimeter artillery shells seriously, but they haven't directed the same urgency to critical air and missile defense interceptors or long-range weapons. Republicans fought to include hundreds of millions of dollars for these priorities in the supplemental, but it is long past time to put critical requirements like these in our base budget.

If the administration doesn't prioritize this procurement in its budgeting and contracting, we shouldn't be surprised when producers hesitate to invest in new production lines or new workers. We have to take the requirements of our national defense more seriously. What on Earth should the rest of the world conclude if we don't?

Next month, dozens of America's allies will arrive here in Washington for a summit of the most successful military alliance in world history. In the face of growing threats, they will have much to celebrate: the addition of two new allies in Finland and Sweden; greater cooperation with allies and partners in the Indo-Pacific, several of whom will be in attendance; and the more than 20 NATO member states who now meet or exceed the alliance's 2 percent spending target.

It is encouraging that so many of America's friends have taken long overdue steps toward stronger defense in response to Russia's aggression. But America cannot afford to be reactive. Threats to our interests are too great to wait for our adversaries to actually strike.

What example will we set? I know the one I would like to set. I know the message Ranking Member WICKER and the overwhelming majority of colleagues on the Armed Services Committee would like to send to the world. But it will take a great deal more seriousness from leading Senate Democrats for the promise of American strength and leadership to carry any weight. They could start by bringing the NDAA to the floor without delay.

NOMINATION OF MUSTAFA TAHER KASUBHAI

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, unfortunately, the Democratic leader has decided that instead of taking up the critical annual Defense authorization, the Senate will dedicate floor time this week to the latest in the Biden administration's parade of unfit nominations to the Federal bench.

The latest example is a judge nominated to the Federal district court in Oregon named Mustafa Kasubhai. Judge Kasubhai's record and judicial philosophy put him well outside the mainstream.

This nominee has bragged about his lack of commitment to standard juris-

prudential practices. During his time as a magistrate judge, he said we have to "set aside conventional ideas of proof"—of proof—"when we are dealing with the . . . interpersonal work of equity, diversity and inclusion."

Now, if by "conventional ideas of proof," he is referring to things like clear evidence or sworn witnesses and their testimony, then I think I tend to prefer conventional ideas.

Unfortunately, this only scratches the surface. This judge also sounds like a committed Marxist. He has authored an article promoting the integration of Marxist theory into property law and claimed that the notion of scarcity of natural resources was a myth promoted by a privileged elite.

He has heaped high praise on the disgraced racist prophet known for insisting that "the only remedy to past discrimination is present discrimination. The only remedy to present discrimination is future discrimination."

As many of our colleagues know, I was fortunate to be here in Washington when Martin Luther King, Jr., delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech, and I don't recall Dr. King calling for retribution. In fact, his name has become nearly synonymous with the exact opposite.

But apparently this is just one more subject on which this judge would prefer to leave "conventional ideas" behind. Well, when it comes to judicial nominations, I subscribe to conventional wisdom: A judge's job is to follow the law, not the passing fads of woke politics.

So I urge my colleagues to join me in rejecting this nomination.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant executive clerk read the nomination of Katherine E. Oler, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

80TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, 80 years ago this month, America and our allies embarked on a mission that would change the course of history. We stormed the beaches of Normandy on D-Day, June 6, 1944. Along with our allies, we formed the largest armada in world history, with more than 5,000 ships and 13,000 aircraft, with the goal of liberating Nazi-occupied Europe and defending the free world. To our country's eternal gratitude, these brave soldiers succeeded in their mission.

On the 80th anniversary of D-Day on June 6, I joined a bipartisan Senate delegation to Normandy to honor the Americans—among them, Tennesseans—who put their lives on the line in the name of freedom.

Of the 16.4 million Americans who served in World War II, less than 1 percent are still with us today. So it was a special honor to meet with some of those brave heroes who served, and we sat together as we commemorated this day.

Among them was Tennessee native Cletis Bailey, who fought to liberate Europe while serving in the 84th Infantry Division. Two years ago, at the age of 96, Mr. Bailey received a Bronze Star for fighting at the Battle of the Bulge. That was 76 years after his service had come to an end.

Like so many Americans who served in World War II, Mr. Bailey was gracious and humble about the incredible sacrifices that he made to defend the country. It was a powerful reminder that the "greatest generation" viewed their service to our country, even through the horrors of war, as their duty as American citizens.

But during the memorial ceremonies, these heroes received the recognition they deserve in front of a crowd of 10,000 people from all over the world. It was so moving to see French President Macron recognize 11 U.S. veterans with the Legion of Honor—France's highest distinction—for their role in helping to free France from Nazi oppression.

While we thanked the surviving D-Day veterans for their service, our delegation also honored the brave soldiers who never returned home to America. In Normandy, there is no greater symbol of their sacrifice than the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial, which holds the graves of 9,387 American war dead. Many of these warriors fell just hundreds of feet away from the cemetery grounds right there on Omaha Beach—the site of the fiercest fighting on D-Day, where U.S. forces suffered approximately 2,400 casualties.

While many markers of the landings have long since disappeared, along the coastline, you will still see fortifications which Nazi forces used to rain machine gun fire on American soldiers who stormed the beaches to free a continent.

In so many ways, Normandy is a reminder that America is the home of

the free because of the brave. And while we can never repay their sacrifices, we must ensure that no veteran is ever left behind—especially when it comes to the benefits and the quality care they deserve.

In the Senate, I have championed legislation to improve the Department of Veterans Affairs' caregiver program and protect veterans' personal information. Thankfully, both of these bills have become law, but there is much more that needs to be done to honor their service. That is why I introduced the Veterans Health Care Freedom Act, which would expand healthcare options for veterans by allowing them to seek care in their local communities instead of VA facilities that are often far away from their homes.

These efforts will not only benefit our Nation's veterans but also the more than 1.2 million Active-Duty troops when their service comes to an end. During the delegation trip, I was pleased to meet many of these brave warriors, including members of Fort Campbell's 101st Airborne Division who live in Tennessee.

On D-Day, the 101st was crucial to the Allies' victory, parachuting into France behind enemy lines to clear a path for the infantry divisions that were storming the beaches. Eighty years later, the current members of the 101st honored this incredible legacy, conducting an air assault drill in Carentan, a French town liberated by the 101st.

The outpouring of support for our veterans and servicemembers was a powerful reminder of General Eisenhower's words to the 175,000-strong expeditionary force on the eve of the D-Day landings: that—then and now—"the hope and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere march with" America and our Armed Forces.

I yield the floor.

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. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, last week, the United States and Allied nations observed a significant milestone in world history: the 80th anniversary of D-Day. That day—by land, air, and sea—this massive military operation unleashed the largest amphibious assault known to the world.

More than 18,000 paratroopers dropped onto the beaches of Normandy. More than 14,000 dispatches from Allied Air Forces provided cover. Nearly 7,000 naval vessels participated, including more than 132,000 ground troops who swam ashore amid heavy German artillery.

American families lost 2,500 servicemembers on D-Day alone. All told, as

we know, more than 400,000 Americans died during World War II serving their country. These courageous patriots defended America's standing as the beacon of hope and freedom around the world.

The sacrifice of the American people to back the war effort allowed the United States to flex its military superiority alongside the Allied forces. That effort bested the Axis powers, defeating their authoritarian regimes and ending the Holocaust, where 6 million Jewish people lost their lives. They were murdered.

At every opportunity, Barbara and I are honored to greet veterans who have come to Washington, DC, in what we call Honor Flights, to visit the World War II Memorial.

A World War II hero and former Senate majority leader here in the Senate, Bob Dole, came to be my best friend. He took me, a fellow midwesterner, under his wing when I first came to the U.S. Senate.

My departed friend brought uncommon courage to the battlefield, and we all know he brought principled leadership to the U.S. Senate. His mentorship made a lasting impression on me and my work in Congress. That includes a nonnegotiable tenet of America's national security, which is peace through strength.

You see, widespread isolationist sentiment kept the United States from entering World War I and World War II. America stayed on the sidelines until the cost of aggression was too high, and the threat to the United States became obviously more acute.

Separated as we are from Europe and Asia by two vast oceans and wishing no one any harm, Americans would naturally feel that we ought to be left alone and ignore foreign conflicts.

Now, here is the lesson for today. The United States learned this lesson from World War II: Preventing and stopping aggression very early is much less costly in dollars and lives.

We learned what happens when you wait. When unchecked aggression has lit the world on fire, we are forced to fight a devastating world war.

That is why the United States led our allies in creating the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, better known as NATO. This most successful defensive alliance in history turned 75 this year.

NATIONAL SECURITY

Madam President, now, this brings me to the purpose of my comments today. Over the next few months, I will be drilling down on the issue of America's military readiness. I have grave concerns that the U.S. military has too many chinks in its armor. For the first time in decades, the invincibility of the U.S. military is questionable, which compromises the safety and security of 330 million Americans.

Scaling back resources for the U.S. military, year after year, undermines morale, weakens troop preparedness, and sends a dangerous signal to America's allies, as well as our adversaries.

Now, none of us, including this Senator, need a crystal ball to see what is on the horizon if the United States of America allows our military to wither on the vine. Unless Washington turns things around, the slippery slope that we are on will trigger an avalanche of no return. The U.S. military can't afford to play second fiddle to anybody or any country anywhere.

Our adversaries around the world take great delight when defense hawks clash here in the Congress with those who want to slash Pentagon spending to spend more on social programs. The "guns and butter" debate takes place every year when appropriators open and close the public purse.

A recent Gallup poll gauging the public's pulse on the U.S. military surprised me. I hope it surprised a lot of my colleagues. While I have long known Congress doesn't earn high approval rates from the public, I didn't expect public confidence in the military to slide to a level not seen since the threat to U.S. power during the Cold War. It dipped down to 60 percent in 2023, compared to a record high of 85 percent following the Gulf war, in 1991, and rising again after the attack in New York on 9/11.

Just 2 weeks ago, on Memorial Day, communities across Iowa and nationwide honored fallen hometown heroes. These are the beloved sons and daughters who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country, leaving their dreams and grieving Gold Star families behind. Throughout American history, tens of millions of American patriots have put their lives on the line to protect U.S. national security, defend our allies, and fight tyranny and terror from distant shores.

Since my first term in the U.S. Senate, I have worked hard to advocate for strengthening combat readiness and to ensure our troops have what they need to do their jobs. As a Pentagon watchdog, my efforts to root out waste, fraud, and abuse are rooted in one fundamental principle. That principle is the top priority of the Federal Government is national security, period.

The phrase "peace through strength" has become known as a Reagan doctrine and was espoused by my good friend from Russell, KS, Senator Dole. This philosophy aligns with my crusade to fix the fiscal mess that undercuts the Department of Defense and undermines the morale of our troops. Every dollar lost to fraud is one less dollar for military readiness.

However, my bipartisan work on this issue shows that I am not for writing the Pentagon a blank check. Protecting taxpayer dollars and boosting military readiness aren't mutually exclusive.

On January 8, 1790, in his first annual address to Congress, President George Washington said that "to be prepared for war is one of the most effectual [ways] of preserving peace."

Our Nation's 40th President continued President Washington's legacy at

the nominating convention 44 years ago in Detroit. Ronald Reagan said this:

We know only too well that war comes not when the forces of freedom are strong, but when they are weak. It is then that tyrants are tempted.

During his 8 years in the White House, President Reagan modernized the U.S. Armed Forces. The U.S. Army grew by two active divisions, and the United States developed new weapons systems to thwart nuclear attacks.

Reagan stared down the "Evil Empire." Those are his words as he referred to the U.S.S.R. and ended the Cold War. The Reagan doctrine taught us really what works.

On the other hand, the appeasement of Presidents Obama and Biden have only incentivized our adversaries to take another inch. Think of the uncertainty that we have today, which arguably stem from the Obama administration airlifting pallets of cash to Iran, followed by the Biden administration lifting sanctions.

Given their public action, I wasn't too surprised when FBI whistleblowers recently came to me with records showing just how easy on Iran the Obama-Biden administration really was. Their own Secretary of State, John Kerry, actively worked to prevent dangerous Iranians from being arrested in order to protect this reckless negotiation that ended up being the Iran nuclear deal.

It has never been a secret that Iran uses its wealth to underwrite terrorism in the hopes of wiping Israel off the map, and they also have a target on the United States.

To give another example, think of the uncertainty in Eastern Europe when Putin annexed Crimea in 2014. The world blinked. Now, he is waging war in Ukraine and itching to knock down the doors of the liberated Baltic States, Poland, and elsewhere to resurrect the old Soviet Union.

I want to remind my colleagues and the American people what the Russian President said in 2005 during his annual state of the nation message. Can you believe this? He called the collapse of the Soviet empire the "greatest geopolitical catastrophe of the century."

Something else Ronald Reagan said rings as true today as it did 40 years ago. He declared the Soviets "must be made to understand we will never compromise our principles and standards [nor] ignore the facts of history and the aggressive impulses of an evil empire. To do so would mean abandoning the struggle between right and wrong and good and evil."

Eighty years after D-Day, our Nation is at a crossroads. As we look ahead toward our Nation's 250th anniversary in 2026, America can't afford to blink.

I never imagined the lessons of the Holocaust would be questioned on the U.S. college campuses, particularly after the unprovoked atrocities and murders of innocent civilians on October 7 last year by Hamas. I never im-

aged isolationism would fuel Putin's brazen efforts to restore the old Soviet Union.

And let's not forget, President Xi has made no bones about his mission to usurp America's global leadership. American leadership has created the conditions for countries to pursue independence, self-determination, and freedom.

In contrast, President Xi seeks to expand China's global footprint through his sinister Belt and Road Initiative, debt-trap diplomacy, and outright military bullying. All of these tactics aim to export the Chinese Communist Party's model of state control over citizens' lives and exert a neo-imperial domination over countries all around the globe.

With intention, the communist Chinese Government silenced the 35th anniversary of the bloody crackdown on pro-democracy protests in Beijing's Tiananmen Square. Communist leaders have all but scrubbed the murder of protestors by armed police and 180,000 troops from Chinese public memory.

Let there be no mistake, authoritarianism regimes use any means necessary to censor free speech, snuff out economic freedom, and pursue and persecute religious freedom.

When Putin and Xi talk about a multipolar world, they mean a world in which they can dominate smaller countries against that country's citizens' will.

In another speech, I will shine a light on religious persecution happening against groups like the Uighurs and other Muslim minorities, Tibetan Buddhists, and Christians in China, as well as Crimean Tatar Muslims, and Evangelical Christians in Ukraine.

Our Constitution guarantees freedom of speech, religion, press, assembly, and the right to peaceably petition the government.

As we look forward to our Independence Day, I encourage all Americans to recognize and appreciate these freedoms. And if Americans want to guarantee these freedoms, peace and prosperity for generations to come, we cannot blink in our commitment to promoting peace through strength. If America doesn't lead, our allies won't follow and our enemies will no longer fear us.

I will close with one more piece of sage advice from President Reagan:

If America ceases to be good, America will cease to be great.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Texas.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, for 3½ years, President Biden's border

policies have resulted in a crisis that has endangered the safety and security of the American people. When law enforcement is forced to spend their days pushing paper, processing, transporting, caring for migrants, it creates an opening for dangerous people and drugs to slip across the border and into our communities.

And, of course, this isn't a coincidence or accidental; it is actually part of the business model of the cartels to whom President Biden has outsourced our immigration policy. They control it—not the Border Patrol, not the Biden administration—criminal cartels that get richer every day smuggling people and drugs across the border. It is a booming business, thanks to President Biden's policies.

But last week, we got a striking reminder of the dangers that lurk in the shadows of this border crisis, one that, maybe, isn't being sufficiently paid attention to. One of these men used the CBP—that is Customs and Border Protection—app, which the Biden administration has been touting as a way for migrants to schedule their hearing before Border Patrol at the port of entry.

So one of the men last week used this app that was sold as a safe and orderly way to manage the crisis. But, clearly, this is not the case.

So this episode—which I will tell you more about in a second—this individual using this CBP app, it took nearly a year for the Biden administration to finally arrest the man in Baltimore, just 40 miles from the U.S. Capital. Once again, this was not an isolated incident.

But we know this is a recurring theme due to intentional policies. This isn't an accident. It is not just negligent. This is on purpose.

Here is a recent headline: Eight suspected terrorists with possible ties to ISIS arrested in New York, Los Angeles, and Philadelphia.

It is worrisome enough if individuals who are on the Terrorist Watchlist are detained at the border, but these eight men were arrested in major American cities far away from the border. All eight were from Tajikistan and entered the United States through the southern border, courtesy of the Biden administration's open border policies.

According to reports, at least two of these men crossed the border in the spring of 2023, more than a year ago.

Again, this was the one who used the CBP app, which was touted as a way to manage the flow of migrants across the border by the Biden administration as if this was an unqualifiedly good thing.

What we know in addition to these 8, just 2 months ago, ICE officers—that is Immigration and Customs Enforcement—in Baltimore, just down the road here from the Nation's Capital, arrested another man—this time from Uzbekistan—with ties to ISIS.

And just to remind everybody, ISIS is a successor organization to al-Qaida. This is a radical terrorist organization that is determined to kill as many in-

nocent Americans and Europeans and non-Muslim believers as possible. But this individual in Baltimore with ties to ISIS was released by the Biden administration in February of 2022.

Now, a little more than a year later, Uzbekistan put out a global notice that this man was, indeed, wanted in his home country for terrorist ties.

Well, just as a reminder: It doesn't take an army to carry out a devastating attack here in America. Twenty-three years ago, on September 11, 19 terrorists killed 3,000 Americans.

And then there is another incident in February where a member of the Somalia-based terror group al-Shabaab—that is another Islamic terrorist organization, this time headquartered in Africa—but a member of the Somalia-based terrorist organization al-Shabaab was arrested, this time in Minnesota. He had initially been released into the country by the Biden administration and allowed to roam freely for about a year.

This has become all too common under President Biden's leadership. Thank goodness, since 9/11, our country has become more sophisticated at identifying and stopping potential terrorist attacks. But the Biden border crisis—again, not accidental, not just negligent but intentional—has created a pathway for terrorists to slip into the United States undetected.

I appreciate, as always, the brave men and women of ICE and Customs and Border Protection and other law enforcement partners who have put these suspected terrorists behind bars. But the reality of the situation is, they never should have been roaming freely in our country in the first place.

This has been part of a conscious policy of President Biden. We have laws that are designed to prevent this exact situation from happening. But if you don't enforce the law, which the Biden administration refuses to do, this is what happens. Terrorists should not be able to cross the southern border. People who are not legally in the United States should not be allowed to cross the southern border. They shouldn't be released by law enforcement, and they absolutely shouldn't be able to move freely across the United States for more than a year.

So this is another case of multiple points of failure. And the Biden administration is responsible for all of them. As the American people know, President Biden has now issued 95 executive orders, 94 of which were specifically designed to dismantle the border security protections that President Trump had put in place.

President Biden purposefully eliminated the most effective measures to maintain a safe and orderly southern border. On day one, he stopped building the physical infrastructure, known as the wall; halted deportations; and ended the "Remain in Mexico" policy—this was just on day one.

In his first 100 days in office, as I said, President Biden has issued 94 ex-

ecutive orders, laying the groundwork for the security crisis that we find ourselves in today. This is the direct result of President Biden's intentional policies. He has dismantled policies that are designed to eliminate illegal border crossings, and he has actually crafted policies that serve as a magnet for additional illegal immigration.

I was just reading on social media that the President is supposedly going to issue another Executive order, this time providing additional work permits and a pathway to a green card and potential citizenship to people who entered the country illegally. This is what the Border Patrol calls a pull factor. It is like a magnet attracting people into the United States who know that if they wait long enough, President Biden will find some way to allow them to stay in the United States, even though they circumvent legal means of coming into the country under our immigration laws.

Now, I don't think anybody is fooled by President Biden's sudden interest in what is happening at the southern border. This is a last-ditch attempt to turn down the heat on the border crisis in the lead up to the election.

And the American people aren't buying it because they are smart. No matter how much spin our Democratic colleagues try to put on the situation, the American people know who is responsible. As this crisis was ramping up during the early days of the Biden administration, the President and his allies went to great lengths to avoid even talking about the border, even as he was dismantling the prior protections.

They essentially placed a ban on the use of the term "crisis" and came up with creative phrases to describe what is happening: a challenge, a situation, a mess—anything to deceive the American people into thinking it really wasn't that bad of a problem.

President Biden waited for 2 years to even visit the border. And it wasn't until January this year he finally admitted that the border isn't secure—something we have all known for 3½ years. He finally admitted it last January. He went on to add—this was a curiosity. He went on to say that he believed the border hadn't been secure during the last 10 years. Very strange.

So it took President Biden 3 years to even acknowledge the security crisis that has been raging since he took office.

I say all this to remind President Biden, Senate Democrats, and our friends in the media how we got here, because memories appear to be short around this town. For 3½ years, President Biden and Senate Democrats were silent about the crisis at the border because they liked the result—9, maybe 10 million people coming across, the drugs that killed 108,000 Americans last year alone, 500,000 unaccompanied children who have been placed with sponsors and lost track of by the Biden administration—these were all the direct result of President Biden's border policies.

So rather than just sitting by and watching this happen, they actually made it worse. They fomented this crisis with open border policies they started implementing on day one.

And after that, they didn't want to acknowledge the existence of a crisis, let alone work with this side of the aisle to try to craft solutions to address it. But because of their malfeasance, the border crisis has grown and grown and grown. And it continues to put the American people at risk.

I believe that a terrorist attack on American soil again is not a matter of "if" but a matter of "when" as a result of the fact that terrorist organizations have facilitated the entry of their allies and supporters across the border into the United States.

President Biden's policies are responsible for these terrorists crossing the border and slipping into our communities. They are responsible for the fentanyl that has taken the lives of 74,000 Americans last year alone, the leading cause of death of young people between the ages of 18 and 45. And they are responsible for the humanitarian crisis that is burdening communities thousands of miles from the southern border.

Thanks to President Biden and his policies, every community is now a border community. But the threats that come across the border don't just stay at the border or even border States, like mine. They fan out across the country.

Regardless of how many executive actions that the President takes today or how forceful his rhetoric is when he talks about the border, the American people see this 11th-hour conversion for what it is: an election year stunt.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President and colleagues, this is a speech I have been thinking about giving for a long time. I think it is a speech somebody needs to give, but it is hard. There is some really awful stuff I am going to talk about, things that cut deep when we think about who we are, when we think about how we handle crises and emergencies, about the things we need to do as a human race to feel safe.

I want to talk to you today about what happened on May 24, 2022—almost 2 years ago—at an elementary school in Uvalde, TX. After 2 years of review, investigation, hand-wringing, grief, and anger, we now have as full a picture of what happened that day as we ever will, and we need to talk about it because it is important.

Here is what we know: 1 hour and 17 minutes after a gunman entered Robb Elementary School and opened fire on two classrooms full of children, 54 minutes after a school police officer got a call from his wife, who said that she had been shot in her classroom, 38 minutes after a 9-1-1 dispatcher told police there were confirmed victims in the classrooms, only then did a team of officers finally enter room 111 at Robb Elementary School and kill the gunman—1 hour and 17 excruciating minutes. The kids inside those classrooms—9, 10, 11 years old—and their teachers waited to be saved by the people whose job it was to keep them safe.

The students in rooms 111 and 112 had prepared for this moment. They had practiced what they should do if something like this were to happen: Drop to the floor. Sit along the walls farthest from the door and the windows. Crouch under desks, countertops—anywhere you could be safe.

They stayed silent—so silent that the officers on the other side of the door thought that there couldn't possibly be children inside. Surely, they would be crying out. But they were doing, in fact, exactly what they were told to do. They were doing their part.

As the minutes went on, outside the classroom stood not 10 armed officers, not 50, not even 100. Outside the classroom and surrounding the school, 376 armed officers were present—outside the classroom.

Inside the classroom, 10-year-old Ailyn Ramos hugged her friend Leann Garcia to stop her from screaming out in pain.

Inside the classroom, Elsa Avila, a teacher in room 109, tried to stay conscious after a bullet ripped through her stomach. Her students whispered to her:

Miss, we love you. You're going to be OK.

They told each other:

Don't let her go to sleep.

Inside the classroom, 10-year-old Khloie Torres and Miah Cerrillo called 9-1-1, begging for help.

Inside the classroom, Khloie and Miah's classmate Kendall Olivarez sobbed in pain as she lay stuck under their teacher, who had already been killed.

As 33 students and 3 of their teachers spent an hour and 17 minutes trapped in a room with an active shooter, there were hundreds of armed adults who stood outside. Doing what? Well, they were doing the things that would naturally occur to you if you heard that a man with military weapons and hundreds of rounds of ammunition is just around the corner from you on a killing spree. They were scared. They were disorganized. They were panicked. They were frozen. There were good people amongst those 376, but they were all providing natural reactions given the circumstances. But that does not excuse their inaction. Of course it doesn't.

The adults—the adults—in Uvalde had bought into this idea that more se-

curity, more men with guns in schools would keep those kids safe. In fact, the Uvalde School District placed so much faith in the ability of armed security to keep schools safe that it had its own school police department. But all of those men with guns didn't protect those kids. The opposite happened.

How on Earth could this happen? How could there be 300 armed law enforcement officers doing nothing for so long as children called 9-1-1, as parents ran to the school and begged to be allowed in? How could those officers wait 1 hour and 17 minutes when the entire point of having a school police department full of men with guns is to stop something like this from happening?

Earlier this year, the Justice Department released a report to try to answer some of those questions. They spent 20 months reviewing hours of body cam footage, audio recordings, training logs. They interviewed 260 people who were there that day. The final report paints a damning and infuriating picture of what went wrong, and I think it is important to talk about it because it shows how flawed this promise is—this promise that good guys with guns is all that is necessary to stop bad guys with guns.

At 11:35, Sergeant Daniel Coronado heard gunfire and ran inside the school. Another round of shots grazed two officers who had been approaching the classrooms with him. One of those officers kept moving toward the classroom, but he turned back when realized that none of his colleagues had followed him.

Again, this reaction from those initial police officers is understandable. There was a madman inside that classroom. Instinct tells you to run away, not to run toward danger.

Then confusion set in—the second predictable element of an active shooter crisis. Sergeant Coronado relayed an unconfirmed report that the gunman was contained and had barricaded himself inside a classroom, leading officers to believe that they were dealing with a barricaded subject, not an active shooter. Active shooter training says rush into the classroom, but they didn't think it was an active shooter, so they didn't act with urgency.

Eventually, they just couldn't continue to rationalize standing idle because it was a barricaded suspect. They continued to hear gunfire. They learned that one of the officers' wives was shot inside the classroom. They heard over their radios that there were victims. Common sense would have told them that there were kids inside these classrooms. Forty minutes into this massacre, there should have been no doubt what they were dealing with. This was an active shooter. This was the time to enter the classroom, but instead they continued to wait.

Now, part of the confusion was that there was no clear command structure; there was no one to give orders. There were probably lots of men with guns who wanted to go in but were told that

they couldn't. But there really was no excuse. At one point, the officers claimed that they needed keys, but they admitted not a single officer even walked up to the door to check if it was unlocked. Why? Because they all knew that inside that classroom was a young man equipped with military-style weaponry that could kill them—that would kill them the instant they opened that door.

Finally, at 12:50 p.m., 77 minutes after the shooter entered the school, a team of officers breached the room and killed the gunman. Two children still had a pulse when they were rescued. Eva Mireles, the teacher whose husband was on the scene, died in an ambulance that never even left the school.

One gunman, 376 armed officers—1 hour and 17 minutes of avoidable, indescribable horror; 19 children and 2 teachers dead—a colossal failure.

So what does this tell us? What can we learn from this? Because we are commanded to learn something from these tragedies.

I know human instinct. I know we have a biological inclination to want to fight fire with fire. So our first reaction, when we see the threat of a deranged young man with a gun, is to mirror that threat with our defensive reaction. If a gunman steps into a building where our kids are, we want them to be met with equal force: Confront a bad guy with a gun with a good guy with a gun.

At some level, in here, I get that that makes sense. I understand this reaction, because I have felt it. I have had kids in these post-Sandy Hook public schools for the last 12 years. And when we wrote the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, the most comprehensive gun legislation in 30 years, it made important changes to our gun laws and invested in mental health, but it also provided \$300 million for school hardening. So I am on the record supporting putting more security in our schools.

But in the wake of Uvalde and in the wake of all of this reporting, it is increasingly impossible to square this gut reaction so many of us understandably have with reality. It is time for me to admit that to myself. It is time for all of us to admit this publicly.

In 1970, police officers were stationed in just 1 percent of America's public schools. By 1997, 22 percent had an officer onsite, and 43 percent in 2016. By 2019, the majority of schools had a police officer onsite. You can match almost every uptick with a high-profile school shooting.

But despite this exponential increase in armed officers at schools, the shootings have not abated. They have increased in frequency. More guns and more police and more armed security in schools has done nothing to stop this trajectory.

We should have seen this with our own eyes well before Uvalde. When the gunshots started at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, FL,

the armed police at the school that day ran away and then argued in court that they had no legal obligation to protect those kids, only an obligation to protect themselves.

But it is not just anecdotal evidence. A study of 179 school shootings between 1999 and 2019 found that there was no association between the presence of a police officer in a school and any reduction in the severity of violent shootings in those schools.

When you really stop to think about this, it does make sense. A shooter with an AR-15 needs a minute or two to get off enough rounds to kill dozens. Even if the armed security officer does the right thing and runs to the gunfire—instead of the natural thing, running away from it—time is on the shooter's side. So it is not surprising that there is no evidence that more guns in our schools keep our kids safe.

What tends to happen, frankly, when police officers populate our schools, is that ordinary school misbehaviors get criminalized, and kids, especially Black boys and disabled students, get arrested for things that used to be dealt with in the principal's office. The police in these schools don't end up stopping mass shootings. They just end up arresting a bunch of kids and ruining their lives.

We can zoom out even further to consider this argument of whether more guns—or more good guys with guns—make our communities safer or less safe. If good guys with guns protected us from gun violence, you would expect States or communities with high rates of legal gun ownership to be safer, but they aren't.

You can probably guess by now that the opposite is actually true. In places with high rates of legal gun ownership, there are more gun deaths than in places with low rates of gun ownership.

There is a difference between what makes us feel safe and what actually makes us safer. The reality is this: More people with guns and more guns do not make our kids safer. That is an uncomfortable truth—I get it—because we want to believe that we can meet force with potential force, and everything will be okay.

But there were 376 armed police officers and security outside that classroom in Uvalde. There were plenty of good guys with guns outside that classroom, some of them steps away from a shooting that was ongoing for an hour, and it did nothing for those kids. Frankly, it made the massacre harder to live with for so many of those parents because it exposed this fraud that told us that we can protect ourselves with more guns.

This is a hard lesson to learn. After Uvalde and Parkland, Texas and Florida just doubled down on a failed strategy. They required more guns in our schools, despite no evidence that it works. In Tennessee, after the terrible Covenant School shooting, the State legislature went even further, arming teachers with guns.

In the movies, a heroic lone good guy with a gun kills dozens of armed evildoers, but that is in the movies. That is fiction. That is not reality. A teacher with a gun isn't going to save our kids. Remember, the evidence tells us, over and over again, that in places with more guns, there are more gun deaths, not less.

But amidst all of this bad news, amidst the failure to learn the lessons of Uvalde and Parkland, there is good news. There are policies that work. In States with gun safety laws—like universal background checks, safe storage, and red flag laws—fewer people die by guns.

In the wake of the passage—the bipartisan passage—of the 2022 gun bill, gun crime is down. Urban gun murders have dropped by 12 percent from 2022 to 2023—the biggest 1-year drop in the history of the country. And 2024 is on pace for another record-setting drop in urban gun crime.

And, this year, the pace of mass shootings is way down as well. Between January and May of this year, there were 29 percent fewer mass shootings compared to the same period of time in 2023.

It is proof that when the primary focus of your efforts is to pass laws that keep guns out of the hands of dangerous people, instead of loading our communities up with guns, and putting money into communities to help get at the root causes of violence, you can save lives.

What happened that day at Robb Elementary School is a disgrace. We will never understand—I will never understand—the grief and the pain of those parents who lost kids that day, who watched 376 armed officers wait an hour and 17 minutes to confront that gunman.

What we can do—what we can do—is make a decision to not simply avert our eyes from what happened that day because it is what is easier, but instead study and learn from this tragedy.

Flooding our schools and our communities with more guns won't solve the problem. It won't stop the next Uvalde. What will keep our kids safe is keeping guns—especially the most dangerous guns—out of the hands of dangerous people.

Congress has the power right now to do something about it. We could start, for instance, by responding to last week's Supreme Court decision and passing legislation to ban the conversion of semiautomatic weapons into machine guns. Our kids would be safer, undoubtedly, if it was harder for a deranged psychopath to get their hands on a banned automatic weapon.

The majority of Americans are on our side. They want Congress to act, to pass things like universal background checks, to ban bump stocks. They are sick of us learning the wrong lesson every time tragedy strikes. It is never too late for this time to be different.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BUTLER). The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, 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

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 597.

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 senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Nancy L. Maldonado, of Illinois, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, 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 read the motion.

The senior assistant 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, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 597, Nancy L. Maldonado, of Illinois, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Alex Padilla, Amy Klobuchar, Jack Reed, Tina Smith, Tammy Duckworth, Richard Blumenthal, Robert P. Casey, Jr. Catherine Cortez Masto, Margaret Wood Hassan, Peter Welch, Sheldon Whitehouse, Raphael G. Warnock, Laphonza R. Butler, Brian Schatz, Benjamin L. Cardin.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call for the cloture motion filed today, June 17, be waived.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

DISASTER RELIEF FUNDING

Mr. WELCH. Madam President, the United States had 75 major disaster declarations since July of 2023. Just last week, a flood tore through southern Florida, and it is only a matter of time before another State is hit.

This “natural disaster” caucus is growing, and it is growing quickly. It is a caucus none of us want to join nor do we ask to join, but instead are forced into it with a single mission: to help our constituents—our communities that have been through unimaginable suffering and pain—to get the resources that they need.

Vermonters know all too well the immense toll a natural disaster takes. It

takes it on our communities and our economy.

Nearly 1 year ago, Vermont experienced nonstop rain over a period of several days. It led to flash flooding, washouts, and mudslides all across our State. It was brutal. Homes and businesses and farms and public infrastructure were damaged, and many were destroyed. It was an all-hands-on-deck moment, and neighbors helped neighbors dig out. From the municipal level to the Federal Government, we tried to help people get back on their feet. And we did get back on our feet, but the damage—if it was your home, if it was your business, if it was your farm—is still lasting.

I have come to the Senate many times since the floodwaters receded to share stories of Vermonters. Their stories are of resiliency through hardship. Vermonters have stories of community and grit and determination. And I am proud, of course, of Vermonters, but I believe that this is the case in communities throughout our Nation.

But our recovery, despite that, is far from complete. Madam President, I will say it loud, clear, and directly: Vermont needs more recovery money. What happened to these families and to these businesses was an act of nature—no fault of their own—but they deserve a shot to get back on their feet.

And as I revisit communities that were hit hard by flooding—places like Barre, Johnson, Hardwick, Montpelier, Ludlow, and Londonderry—it is clear that work to recover from this flood will last for years. There are home and business buyouts that are stalled, farmers who need help, and resiliency projects that need to get done before the next flood comes—and it will be coming.

We need supplemental disaster funding, and we really do need it now. The funds need to be flexible so that our communities in Vermont, in Hawaii, in Texas, in Florida, in California, and in other States can use the funds as needed for their recovery to their unique needs.

A flood and a fire require different recovery strategies, and that should be reflected in the funding. That is why the community development block grants for disaster recovery are so critical. They are flexible. They are localized. These funds give the communities the flexibility needed to rebuild and recover, allowing them to prepare for future disasters and safeguard their communities. Senator SCHATZ has been a fantastic partner in this, and I am thankful for his leadership as subcommittee chair on the Appropriations Committee.

Last week, the Joint Economic Committee’s Democratic majority released a new report on the economic cost of flooding. The findings are really stunning: Flooding will cost \$180 to \$496 billion each year. These costs are probably an undercount. They are only a fraction of what our communities truly endure as we recover from a flood. I en-

courage my colleagues and everyone listening to read this report. See for yourself how climate change is ravaging our economy.

There are obvious ways that flooding costs our economy: structural damages to our homes, farms, businesses, schools, transit systems, and more; infrastructure upgrades needed to protect against future flooding; and the direct and indirect commercial impacts from flooding. But then there are the costs that you might not consider: costs associated with flood-related deaths; decreased tax revenues; increases in insurance premiums; and crop loss, among the many other costs.

This should be an alarm bell. It should give pause to every one of my colleagues in the Senate and in the House because every State could be the next victim of the severe weather that is all about us as a result of the change in our climate. Vermonters know it all too well.

But there is good news. We can do something to mitigate these costs. Another recent analysis found that every \$1—\$1—spent on flood resiliency efforts saves up to \$318 in flood-related damages. It is a pretty good return on investment.

And if you want to talk about cost-saving measures, resiliency funding should absolutely be paired with recovery funding for natural disasters. We need to build back in a more resilient way after natural disasters hit, not build back in the same way for it to be done all over again.

I was just in Brattleboro on Friday, where I saw a new FEMA-funded floodplain restoration project. It is terrific. A similar project helped downtown Brattleboro avoid damage during the July floods and will hopefully help the community avoid flooding in the future when the rains come again.

We cannot rebuild in the same way and in the same place and hope for the best. The reality is that climate change is here, and it is unpredictable. We need to do more to make our homes, farms, and communities more resilient.

Gone are the days, by the way, of so-called climate havens. In 2020, ProPublica and the New York Times Magazine published a report that found that in Vermont, Lamoille County, Orange County, Franklin County, and Essex County were the top four counties in the United States to live in to avoid climate change-related crises.

I can tell you—as a Vermonter—no longer. Climate change has come to all of Vermont.

I am going to keep working with my friends and colleagues, the senior Senator from Vermont Senator SANDERS and Representative BALINT in the House, to get Vermont the flood recovery funding we need, but I want to do that in partnership with every other Senator and Representative whose districts need flood recovery funding.

Congress, in both Chambers and both parties, need to come together to help

all our States impacted through a natural disaster. The next natural disaster, be it a flood, a fire, a tornado, or a hurricane, could happen in your State. And as we often say, there but for the grace of God go I.

I urge my colleagues to have grace for their fellow Americans and fellow colleagues who need the help now because you never know when your State could be next.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 10 minutes.

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

NOMINATION OF MUSTAFA TAHER KASUBHAI

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, I come to the floor today to state my strong support for Judge Mustafa Kasubhai's nomination to serve on the U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon.

There are a number of reasons why I believe Judge Kasubhai's nomination is appropriate, but today I will focus on what I think are three priorities of his. First is public safety; second is understanding rural communities; and third, his nomination has broad support from leaders across the political spectrum.

During his 6 years serving as a Federal magistrate judge on the Oregon district court, Judge Kasubhai has demonstrated a commitment to the rule of law and community security—so much so that the judge's nomination has been endorsed by the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police, the Acting U.S. Marshal, and others in law enforcement.

The Oregon Association Chiefs of Police took special note of Judge Kasubhai's record. They called that record a "distinguished record of service and dedication to upholding the rule of law, as well as his unwavering commitment to supporting crime victims and law enforcement" as one of the many reasons that the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police is backing his nomination.

In one case earlier this year, Judge Kasubhai ordered a White supremacist, alleged to have defaced a synagogue, to be held in detention while court proceedings were ongoing. Judge Kasubhai deemed this individual too great a threat to the community, despite defense counsel calling for him to be released on home confinement. This is just one example which shows Judge Kasubhai's commitment to prioritizing public safety.

Second, the judge knows and understands the challenges facing rural communities across the country. Before serving as a magistrate judge, he practiced law in Klamath Falls, OR. For those who aren't familiar with my State, this is a very rural area with an agricultural and natural resource-driven economy.

Judge Kasubhai has been there for these communities. Anyone with Judge

Kasubhai's resume would have had a lot of opportunities available to them, and it says a lot about the judge's character and care for rural Oregonians that he chose to go where his skills were most needed, and he saw that he could make a difference in rural Oregon.

In talking with Judge Kasubhai, it is clear that his time working in Klamath Falls gave him a firsthand understanding of how the judicial system affects rural communities. I have no doubt that he will use this knowledge to ensure that his decisions are fair to all and take into account the needs of communities, large and small.

Finally, not only did Judge Kasubhai advance through a bipartisan judicial selection commission in my State, he also brings with him letters of support from leaders across Oregon and the political spectrum. Notably, he has the support of both a judge appointed by President Bush, who called him "the very soul of fairness," as well as a Trump-appointed U.S. attorney.

Judge Kasubhai's extensive legal accomplishments, unwavering commitment to serving our communities, and dedication to the rule of law are all reasons why I urge my colleagues to vote for his confirmation. This is a judge who will truly lead—and lead in a way that complies with the rule of law.

I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant executive 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, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 510, Katherine E. Oler, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

Charles E. Schumer, Gary C. Peters, Jack Reed, Benjamin L. Cardin, Alex Padilla, Laphonza R. Butler, Christopher A. Coons, Tammy Duckworth, Christopher Murphy, Richard J. Durbin, Jeanne Shaheen, Margaret Wood Hassan, Mazie K. Hirono, Sherrod Brown, Tina Smith, Catherine Cortez Masto, Jeff Merkley.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Katherine E. Oler, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk called the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS), and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) would have voted "nay" and the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS) would have voted "nay."

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 39, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 198 Ex.]

YEAS—50

Baldwin	Heinrich	Rosen
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Sanders
Blumenthal	Hirono	Schatz
Booker	Kaine	Schumer
Brown	Kelly	Shaheen
Butler	King	Smith
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Cardin	Manchin	Tester
Carper	Markey	Tillis
Casey	Murkowski	Van Hollen
Collins	Murphy	Warner
Coons	Murray	Warnock
Cortez Masto	Ossoff	Warren
Duckworth	Padilla	Welch
Gillibrand	Peters	Whitehouse
Graham	Reed	Wyden
Hassan	Romney	

NAYS—39

Barrasso	Fischer	Paul
Blackburn	Grassley	Ricketts
Boozman	Hagerty	Rounds
Braun	Hawley	Rubio
Britt	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Budd	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Capito	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Lankford	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lee	Thune
Crapo	Marshall	Tuberville
Cruz	McConnell	Vance
Daines	Moran	Wicker
Ernst	Mullin	Young

NOT VOTING—11

Cotton	Hoeben	Merkley
Cramer	Luján	Risch
Durbin	Lummis	Sinema
Fetterman	Menendez	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HEINRICH). On this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 39.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

**SUPREME COURT ETHICS,
RECUSAL, AND TRANSPARENCY
ACT**

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I rise because now is the time to pass Senator WHITEHOUSE's legislation to require the Supreme Court of the United States to adopt a binding and enforceable code of ethics, create a process for investigating misconduct, and improve the disclosure and transparency requirements for the Justices on our Nation's highest Court. I thank my colleagues Senators WHITEHOUSE and DURBIN for their leadership on this issue.

I have long believed that rule of law is central to our democracy and that preserving public trust in our institutions is vital to the health of our Republic. It is important that the American people have confidence that the Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States are making decisions based on the facts and the law, not private interests.

The Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States know this, too. In fact, the very first canon that the Supreme Court set out in its code of conduct last November states that "a Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States should maintain and observe high standards of conduct in order to preserve the integrity and independence of the federal judiciary."

This isn't the first time that Congress has had to address the need for transparency and ethical requirements for government officials. In 1978, in the wake of Watergate, Congress passed the Ethics in Government Act, which requires certain public officials, including Supreme Court Justices and members of the executive branch, to make disclosures about their financial interests, including income they receive from a source outside the Federal Government, gifts, debts they owe, and sales of certain real estate and stocks.

Unfortunately, in recent years, we have seen an alarming rise in reports of ethically questionable behavior by the Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States in regard to accepting and not disclosing gifts as required under the law. For example, we learned that in 2014, Justice Thomas allowed a billionaire to buy his mom's house and fix it up for her—and pay for the Justice and his wife to take lavish vacations. We also know that same billionaire paid for Justice Thomas to attend a trip to Malaysia on a private jet and a superyacht. That trip was valued at over \$500,000 and was not disclosed by Justice Thomas. Justice Thomas was required to report these gifts, but he didn't. Instead, we only found out about it through the work of investigative journalists.

There needs to be an enforceable code of ethics and mechanisms to investigate, and if necessary, take corrective action when the Justices don't take their reporting obligations seriously. That is how we preserve the American people's confidence in the in-

stitutions of government, including the Supreme Court.

Just like transparency, judges are supposed to be above politics and avoid even the appearance of bias. In 1974, Congress passed a law requiring the Supreme Court's Justices, as well as other Federal judges, "to recuse themselves when their impartiality might be reasonably questioned."

This was reiterated by the Supreme Court's own code of conduct adopted in November which states that a Justice should disqualify himself or herself where they have "a personal bias or prejudice concerning a case."

In fact, the Justices are no strangers to the practice of recusing themselves when there is an appearance of impropriety. For 50 years, the Justices have followed the recusal law. For example, in 1995, Justice Thomas recused himself from *United States v. Virginia* because of his son's enrollment at Virginia Military Institute.

If the Justices of the Supreme Court sat on any other Federal court, the clear and enforceable code of ethics would ensure that they recuse when their impartiality might be reasonably questioned. But at the Supreme Court, the decision to recuse is up to each Justice, and there is no explanation required.

These examples demonstrate why Senator WHITEHOUSE's bill—the Supreme Court Ethics, Recusal, and Transparency Act—is so important. It would require the Court to adopt an enforceable code of ethics. It requires that Justices disqualify themselves from cases in certain situations where their impartiality could be reasonably questioned such as if they have received gifts from parties appearing before the Court. It requires that Justices disclose the same information concerning gifts, income, and reimbursements as required by Members of Congress. And it provides for a process by which individuals may file complaints that a Justice has violated the code.

This is hardly a radical proposal and this isn't about attacking one Justice or another. The majority of Americans—75 percent according to a recent report—support a binding ethics code for the Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States.

I call on all my colleagues—Democratic, Republican, and Independent—to come together, pass this bill, and help bring the Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States in line with the ethical requirements and accountability procedures that every other Federal judge in this country already abides by.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Ms. BUTLER. Mr. President, I was unable to vote on June 13 due to testing positive for COVID-19. If I had been present, I would have voted on rollcall vote No. 197 in support of the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to pro-

ceed to S. 4445, a bill to protect and expand nationwide access to fertility treatment, including in vitro fertilization.

RIGHT TO IVF ACT

Ms. BUTLER. Mr. President, I rise today to join my colleagues in support of the Right to IVF Act of 2024. I would like to start by thanking Senators DUCKWORTH, MURRAY, BOOKER, and LEADER SCHUMER for their work championing this legislation, which would help ensure IVF services are available and accessible to patients across the country.

It should appall all of us that one of the most common forms of assisted reproductive technology is under attack, but it should not surprise us. Extreme MAGA Republicans across the Nation will stop at nothing to exert control over women's bodies.

Just 3 months ago, my Republican colleagues in this Chamber had the opportunity to stand with women and families. Instead, they blocked a bill to expand IVF access and family-building services for veterans and servicemembers, which after serving our Nation, for many, is the only way to make their dream of having a family possible. And in February, the Alabama Supreme Court issued a ruling that ground IVF treatments to a halt and ushered in weeks of chaos and confusion for would-be parents.

But it is not just Alabama; women and families across the Nation face fear and uncertainty as extreme Republicans in several other States seek to limit access to IVF altogether. Following the Alabama Supreme Court's ruling that embryos created through in vitro fertilization are considered children, so-called fetal personhood bills have been introduced in Kansas, Florida, Colorado, Iowa, Louisiana, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Massachusetts, Missouri, New York, Oklahoma, South Carolina, and Utah during the 2024 legislative session.

We have seen example after example of MAGA Republicans' shameful crusade to rip reproductive health services out of the hands of people who need them. It is dumbfounding to see this level of blatant contradiction from Republicans who love to tout themselves as being the "pro-life party" on the campaign trail. But here, in the room where it happens, they are advocating for policies that would foreclose for so many families the opportunity to have children. Their actions speak much louder than their words. According to the Department of Health and Human Services, IVF has proven to be a necessary family-building tool. Yet the "party of family values" is intent on blocking this bill.

Across the country, including in States represented by my Republican colleagues, there are stories of countless women and their significant others who have spent years waiting, saving, and praying for the day they could

bring a child into the world. These are constituents—our collective constituents—who stand to benefit tremendously from legislation like the Right to IVF Act.

This week, I heard from Karli from Santa Rosa, CA, who wrote to me about her experience receiving IVF care. She says, “The biggest dream of my life was to be a Mama. When I married my husband, he had gotten a vasectomy 18 years earlier. He had surgery to reverse it, so we could try to have a baby naturally. We tried for years with no success. We looked into adoptions but had no idea the process could be so long, so expensive, and no guarantee we would be chosen as parents . . .

“After 3 years of fertility issues, we finally saw a reproductive specialist. We chose to use donated embryos, and after our 3rd transfer, we had a successful pregnancy and live birth. Our daughter is the biggest blessing of my life, brings joy, love and laughter to everyone she meets.

“Without the help of reproductive intervention, she would not have been born, and I would not have been able to be a Mama. I am beyond grateful, and the world is absolutely a better place with my angel in it. . . .”

I am proud to know that California is leading the charge to protect IVF access and reproductive freedom across the board. But there are thousands of Karli’s in Missouri, in Alabama, in Georgia, and across the Nation who are not guaranteed those same rights.

The Right to IVF Act is needed and necessary legislation. The American people are counting on us to safeguard the right to these vital services, and I urge my colleagues to join me in advancing this bill.

SUPREME COURT ETHICS, RECUSAL, AND TRANSPARENCY ACT

Ms. BUTLER. Mr. President, I rise today to join my colleagues in urging that the Supreme Court be held to a higher standard of transparency and accountability and that we immediately pass the Supreme Court Ethics, Recusal, and Transparency Act.

Let me begin by thanking my colleagues Senators WHITEHOUSE and DURBIN for their tireless work on this issue. They understand that Congress has a responsibility to hold those in places of power to account, and I am proud to join their effort.

The American public’s confidence in our democratic institutions has reached new lows. In February of this year, a poll by the Marquette School of Law found that 60 percent of respondents disapproved of the Supreme Court. And who could blame them? The egregious behavior we have seen from some Supreme Court Justices in the last few months is deeply concerning and has eroded trust in our institutions. The highest Court in the land is no place for anyone with personal bias and questionable ethics.

Take for example, Justice Clarence Thomas, who failed to disclose significant gifts and financial transactions from wealthy conservative billionaires. Meanwhile, Justice Thomas’s wife involved herself in efforts to overturn the 2020 Presidential election results. How should the American public expect Justice Thomas to “faithfully and impartially discharge and perform all the duties incumbent upon him?” They can’t.

Or consider Justice Samuel Alito who similarly accepted undisclosed trips and gifts funded by conservative benefactors. And an inverted American flag—a symbol carried by January 6 insurrectionists—was seen at his home less than 2 weeks after the violent attack on the Capitol. How should the American public expect Justice Alito to “faithfully and impartially discharge and perform all the duties incumbent upon him?” They can’t.

So it should come as no surprise to us that more than half of Americans disapprove of the Supreme Court. But maintaining the public’s trust and confidence in the Court is essential to the credibility of the judicial branch. The Supreme Court Ethics, Recusal, and Transparency Act is our first step toward slowly, but surely, rebuilding that.

In 2022, while speaking at the annual convention of the American Constitution Society, Justice Sonia Sotomayor said, “We have to have continuing faith in the court system and our system of government,” adding that she hoped “to regain the public’s confidence that we—as a court, as an institution—have not lost our way.”

It is our job as the U.S. Congress to ensure that our way truly is not lost. Establishing basic transparency of those who interpret the highest law of the land are not just matters of common sense, it is a moral imperative. It is a necessary function of Congress to keep those in power in check. If we fail to fulfill this responsibility, then we ultimately fail the millions of Americans we are sworn to serve.

As we consider this legislation, let us remember that the judiciary is the bedrock of our democracy. Getting this bill across the finish line takes a needed step toward preserving the integrity of our highest Court and the democratic principles it upholds. I strongly urge my colleagues to help restore confidence in our Nation’s institutions by supporting this critical legislation.

REMEMBERING DR. JAMES “JIM” E. AUER

Mr. HAGERTY. Mr. President, Dr. James “Jim” E. Auer, who passed away in Nashville, TN, on May 16, 2024, was a pillar of the U.S.-Japan Alliance. I had the privilege of knowing Dr. Auer for a number of years, as he would attend events hosted by the Japan-America Society of Tennessee.

While I would speak with Jim from time to time, he never talked about—nor even hinted at—his own truly in-

credible accomplishments with respect to the U.S.-Japan Alliance. That is until, one day, it leaked out that President Trump was nominating me to be U.S. Ambassador to Japan, and Jim told my longtime assistant Betsy Van Dam that he needed to meet with me in person soon. And so Jim and I met, and he began to unpack for me his accumulated knowledge amassed over the decades of his experience with Japan.

Let me summarize some of that experience: Jim began his career working with the U.S. Navy in 1963 assigned to a minesweeper based in Sasebo, Japan. He would go on to be the first U.S. Navy officer to study at the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force Staff College in Tokyo. In 1973, he would be a key figure in homeporting the U.S.S. *Midway*, the first U.S. aircraft carrier to be permanently based in a foreign country, in Yokosuka, Japan—a distinction that Japan continues to hold to this day.

From 1979 to 1988, he served as the Special Assistant for Japan in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, acting as a bridge between the Japanese Defense Agency—now Japan’s Ministry of Defense—and the U.S. Department of Defense. After his retirement from the U.S. Navy, Jim would spend the next 25 years serving as a professor at Vanderbilt University. At Vanderbilt, he founded the Center for U.S.-Japan Studies and Cooperation in 1988. For his devotion to the U.S.-Japan relationship, Jim was awarded the Japanese Order of the Rising Sun in December 2008. Jim Auer was a true treasure to the U.S.-Japan Alliance, and his efforts to strengthen the U.S.-Japan relationship are profound and enduring.

On a personal note, I found him to be an invaluable resource when I had the honor of serving as the 30th U.S. Ambassador to Japan. Indeed, I deeply appreciate that the strength of the U.S.-Japan Alliance today was made possible by the earlier accomplishments of trailblazers like Dr. Jim Auer. On May 24, 2024, I was honored to attend the Japan-America Society of Tennessee’s annual meeting in Nashville and to remember Jim’s legacy during a panel discussion with Japanese Ambassador to the United States Shigeo Yamada that was moderated by Chairwoman Masami Tyson. Jim’s children Tei, Helen, and John Ed and the rest of the Auer family should know that our Nation is eternally grateful for his contributions.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD this obituary in memory of Dr. Jim Auer that was published in the Tennessean on May 28, 2024.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

GENTLEMAN, DEVOTED HUSBAND, LOVING FATHER, NAVAL OFFICER, SHIP CAPTAIN, POLICY MAKER, SCHOLAR, PROFESSOR
THE BEDROCK OF UNITED STATES SECURITY
RELATIONS WITH JAPAN

James Edward Auer loved God, his wife, and his children. A true American patriot,

Jim also loved the United States, the U.S. Navy, and Japan, in that order.

Jim hailed from Minnesota and grew up in Milwaukee. After graduating from Marquette University, he was commissioned in the U.S. Navy in 1963, a path that would lead him to become the founding policy visionary of U.S.-Japan security relations. Jim spent years in Japan with the Navy, commanding a ship home-ported there, and was the first U.S. Navy officer to study at the Japan Maritime Self Defense Force Staff College.

Dr. Auer in 1973 wrote a Praeger Special Study in International Politics, *The Postwar Rearmament of Japanese Maritime Forces, 1945-1971*, based on his PhD dissertation at the Fletcher School. It was also published in Japanese. This book had an important and relevant-for-today forward by Admiral Arleigh Burke, retired U.S. Chief of Naval Operations. Jim's research in Japan led him to close friendships and mutual respect with the Japanese Navy that continued throughout his life, to include the naming his first of three adopted children after two distinguished Japanese admirals.

Jim's significant duty station was in the Pentagon, Office of the Secretary of Defense, as Special Assistant for Japan. When President Reagan's team entered the Pentagon in 1981, Jim was immediately recognized as invaluable by his new bosses, a young 35-year-old former Senate staffer named Rich Armitage, and James Kelly, both of whom had served in the Navy and later became senior diplomats.

During the Cold War, Japan was an afterthought to senior officials, who relied on Dr. Auer implicitly for advice and words to write and speak. All senior Pentagon leaders' speeches and remarks on Japan were drafted by Jim Auer, and almost all were spoken as Jim had written. When Japan was considering breaking the 1% of GDP policy, Japan officials called Jim to ask him what the Secretary of Defense would say if it was decided and announced. Jim thought for a minute and then wrote and read to them what the Secretary would say. With confidence in Jim Auer's on-the-spot drafted statement, Japan decided to break the barrier. When it was announced the next day, Secretary Weinberger's statement was exactly as Jim said it would be.

U.S. security policy toward Japan before Dr. Auer was based on senior U.S. officials asking or demanding Japan to "do more" and to increase its budget. Under Dr. Auer, security policy more successfully emphasized and encouraged Japan's own set of security goals, which would grow to be very supportive of the Japan-U.S. relationship.

Jim decided to leave Washington in 1988 to move to his wife's family farm near Nashville. Jim did this for his family, and former governor of Tennessee Lamar Alexander urged Dr. Auer to set up a Japan-related center at Vanderbilt University. Jim founded the Center for U.S.-Japan Studies and Cooperation and served as the Center's leader while a professor and lecturer at Vanderbilt for more than twenty years. The Center's signature event was the annual U.S.-Japan Technology Forum, which led to increased technology exchange and cooperation between the U.S. and Japan that we are seeing the fruits of today.

In 2006, Dr. Auer edited an English language edition *Who Was Responsible?*, a groundbreaking two-volume study by the Yomiuri Shimbun, a major Japan newspaper, of Japan's disastrous 1931-1945 war. No such critical analysis had been done in Japan at that time.

In 2008 Jim was awarded the Order of the Rising Sun with Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon by the Japanese Government in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the

mutual understanding and friendship between Japan and the United States.

In 2016 Dr. Auer was awarded the prestigious Sankei Newspaper Seiron Taisho award, as the 31st recipient and only non-Japanese to receive it. Prime Minister Abe gave congratulatory remarks.

If Jim were with us right now, he would say that all of the above is ok, but the most important event of his life was marrying Judith Manning. Judy was a school teacher in Yokosuka whom Jim met in Tokyo in 1978 and married one year later. She was intelligent, kindhearted, and warm, and Jim was grateful for her every day of his life. He frequently said she was the reason he could do what he did, and he loved her dearly. Judy was his best friend, a thoughtful hostess, a wonderful mother and grandparent. All who knew Judy believed she was special.

Jim accomplished a lot in his life, but he always gave credit to others. He was kind and generous to juniors and students. He tutored many, in and out of government. Jim was a gentleman in the classic sense of the word, with gracious dignity, a ready smile, and modest demeanor. Americans and Japanese that Jim worked with may have sometimes disagreed with him, but all of them, from leaders to peers to subordinates, liked him. Jim was beloved and respected by his students at Vanderbilt University. In particular, he had a special bond with all the fellows who studied under him at the Center, and he loved them very much. They, along with all those whom Jim touched, carry on his legacy.

Jim is survived by his three children, musician Teiichiro, educator and care assistant Helen, U.S. Marine Major John Ed, and five grandchildren, Noah, Sophia, Charlotte, Lydia, and Violet.

REMEMBERING MICHAEL LOVELL

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the life and exceptional career of Michael Lovell, president of Marquette University, who died on June 9, 2024 at the age of 57. Mr. Lovell's passing has deeply impacted not only the Marquette University community, but also the entire State of Wisconsin.

Mr. Lovell was born in 1967, and from a young age, he excelled in academics. Lovell earned a bachelor of science, master of science, and PhD in mechanical engineering from the University of Pittsburgh. However, his commitment to science did not end there. Lovell authored over 100 articles in engineering journals, contributed to 12 book chapters, and collaborated on a book titled "Tribology for Scientists and Engineers." As a researcher, he spearheaded investigations securing nearly \$30 million in research grants from various sources, including foundations, corporations, and government entities like the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy, the Department of Defense, and the Department of Education. His work yielded multiple technological advancements, resulting in the acquisition of 7 patents and 14 provisional patents. In recognition of his contributions, Lovell was formally inducted into the National Academy of Inventors.

In 2008, Mr. Lovell arrived in Milwaukee to serve as the dean of the Col-

lege of Engineering and Applied Science at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Lovell went on to serve as the interim chancellor of UWM and then secured the permanent position in 2011. Just a few years later, in 2014, Lovell was presented with the opportunity to take on the role of Marquette's president. He stated, "It became clear to me I was called to Milwaukee six years ago to become Marquette's president. It was never really my plan, but I'm just glad I decided to follow it."

Michael Lovell's decade-long stewardship of Marquette University exemplified a profound commitment to innovation, entrepreneurship, and community development, all rooted in the Jesuit values that guided his leadership. His tenure as Marquette's first lay president marked a transformative era for the institution, characterized by tireless dedication to its mission and the well-being of its students, faculty, and staff.

Beyond the confines of academia, Michael Lovell's influence extended into the fabric of Milwaukee itself. His collaborative spirit and vision for partnership brought together diverse stakeholders to address pressing societal challenges and drive economic growth in our communities. From his instrumental role in establishing the Northwestern Mutual Data Science Institute, to his advocacy for initiatives tackling issues like poverty and psychological trauma, Lovell's legacy as a catalyst for positive change will endure for generations to come.

Yet, amidst his professional achievements, Michael Lovell's personal journey stands as a testament to resilience, faith, and unwavering courage. His brave battle against cancer, fought with remarkable strength and dignity, serves as an inspiration to all who knew him. Even in the face of adversity, he remained steadfast in his commitment to serving others, leaving an indelible mark on those whose lives he touched.

As we mourn the loss of Michael Lovell, let us also celebrate his enduring legacy and the profound impact he made on Marquette University, the city of Milwaukee, and beyond. May his memory serve as a guiding light for all who strive to follow in his footsteps, dedicated to the pursuit of excellence, compassion, and the common good.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LAWRENCE ANDERSON PIE SOCIAL

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Lawrence Anderson Memorial Pie Social.

Named in honor of the event's founder, the Lawrence Anderson Memorial Pie Social serves as the unofficial kick-off for Laramie County and statewide candidates. The pie social is held biennially on the last Sunday in June in Pine Bluffs, WY.

The pie social started in 1984 when Lawrence recognized the need for community members to connect directly with those who seek to represent them. He developed this cornerstone event as a forum for fellowship with friends and neighbors. As the Pine Bluffs Post notes, folks from “. . . Eastern Laramie County eagerly look forward to the premier social event of the campaign season.”

We all know the best way to celebrate our common goals is to share a meal. Lawrence took this principle to the next level, asking all who attend to bring a homemade pie. Lawrence was the kind of leader who used the lessons he learned growing up on his family's homestead to solve community issues. He was never afraid to do the work himself and was, as the Pine Bluffs Post notes, “Known for years as one of the hardest workers in the Republican Party. Lawrence Anderson earned the nickname ‘Mayor of North Burns’ which he held with pride.”

Lawrence, his late wife Joanne, and the entire Anderson family, leave a legacy of service to Eastern Laramie County. I served with Rodney Pete Anderson, when he represented Wyoming House District 10 in the legislature. Leonard Anderson, Lawrence's brother, served as the mayor of Pine Bluffs.

Although Lawrence left us in 2018, his quiet brand of leadership remains. We are all better for learning from his humble and patient spirit. He embodied the Wyoming Code of the West. From farming to serving on the boards for Community Action of Laramie County and Laramie County School District 2, Lawrence did what had to be done, was tough, but fair and always rode for the brand.

Lawrence leaves behind a large family. His children are Mark Anderson and wife Judy; Craig Anderson and wife Gail; and Sharon Anderson—grandchildren are Jolie Sawyer; Kelly Janes and husband David; Brett Anderson and wife Lori; Ryan Anderson and wife Alli; Jeremy Anderson and wife Rachel; Robert Anderson; and Taya Anderson; along with numerous great-grandchildren.

In honor of the 40th anniversary of this iconic Wyoming event, I applaud the Laramie County community, this year's coordinator Mike Heath and the other leaders who have worked to continue this tradition. We are all fortunate to continue in the footsteps of Lawrence Anderson.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING RAYMON ENTERPRISES, INC.

• Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to

recognize Raymon Enterprises of Albion, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

In 1973, Don Martin founded Donco Industries in Waterloo. The company started by manufacturing passive sound absorption materials for heating, ventilation, and air conditioning—HVAC—systems with just four employees and two motorized machines. In 1979, after moving to a new location above a bowling alley in Eldora, Larry and Joynell Raymon took an interest in the business. The Raymons took a leap of faith and acquired the company in 1985, after moving operations to their current location in Albion.

In 2006, the Raymon family renamed the business to Raymon Enterprises. Today, the family company is a major manufacturer of commercial-grade grilles, registers, and diffusers used in HVAC systems across the United States and Canada. In 2022, Larry's son Chad was named president of the company that now employs more than 80 people and operates out of a 65,000-square-foot state-of-the-art facility in Albion. In 2023, Raymon Enterprises celebrated its 50th anniversary, marking over five decades of high-quality products and incredible customer service.

Over the years, Raymon Enterprises has not only focused on company growth but also on giving back to the community. In 1988, Larry received the Small Business Administration's Des Moines District Small Business Person of the Year award. In 1992, the company was named the Marshalltown Chamber Member of the Year. Today, Raymon Enterprises holds membership with the American Legion, American Veterans, the Farm Bureau, and the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration, and Air-Conditioning Engineers.

As a member of the Army National Guard, Larry has a special appreciation for those who serve. Using their own funds, the Raymon family opened the Raymon Veterans Park in Albion. The park features a fully restored M110A2 Howitzer from Operation Desert Storm and, most importantly, a beautiful dedication plaza to honor America's veterans. In 2023, the park hosted its first Memorial Day service, attracting over 300 people who came to show their support and gratitude. The family hopes to continue the tradition each year on Memorial Day.

After years of leading the company, Larry passed away in February 2024. His leadership extended beyond business through his work to make a significant impact in Iowa and the Albion community. Larry served in the Army National Guard and founded the Marshalltown Economic Development Impact Committee, a community-based economic development organization that created over 100 new jobs in Marshall County.

The entire Raymon family exemplifies the spirit of perseverance and dedication to your community. I want to congratulate the Raymon family and

everyone at Raymon Enterprises for their continued commitment to Albion and the entire State of Iowa. As they continue forward, their legacy of excellence and community service is sure to inspire future generations. I look forward to witnessing their continued growth and success in Iowa.●

RECOGNIZING THE KRESGE FOUNDATION

• Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the work and legacy of the Kresge Foundation, an organization founded and headquartered in suburban Detroit, as they celebrate 100 years of philanthropy. Over the past century, the Kresge Foundation has remained true to its profoundly simple yet decidedly impactful founding mission to “promote the well-being of mankind,” while also serving as a leader and example for philanthropic efforts the world over. It is a privilege and honor to recognize the centennial milestone of this singular organization on June 11, 2024.

The Kresge Foundation was founded in Detroit in 1924 by department store businessman and philanthropist Sebastian Spering Kresge, whose S.S. Kresge Co.—and later, Kmart—brought affordable goods to everyday Americans in communities across the country. To help commemorate the 25th anniversary of his company's founding, Mr. Kresge set aside a \$1.3 million gift for the initial endowment of his foundation, followed up shortly after by an additional donation of 500,000 shares of common stock in the S.S. Kresge Co. This founding endowment not only allowed the Kresge Foundation to establish itself and its mission but to grow alongside the company it shares its name with, ultimately expanding into the global philanthropic organization it is today.

Beginning with its first charitable donation in 1925—a \$100 grant to the Salvation Army of Detroit—and expanding outward from there, the Kresge Foundation has built a record of transformative and innovative philanthropic work over its history. Through its grant-making efforts, particularly the use of its signature challenge grants, the Kresge Foundation has awarded over \$5 billion in funding over its 100 years to worthy causes across all 50 States, Washington, DC, two U.S. territories, and 18 countries around the world.

Today, its multifaceted work spans six key priority areas, which include arts and culture, community development, the city of Detroit, environment, education, and health and human services. From supporting cutting-edge medical research at the Kresge Eye Institute in Ann Arbor to building bridges to promising futures for Detroit school children at the School at Marygrove, the foundation's impact truly spans the breadth of human endeavor and need.

Perhaps its cornerstone partnership, however, lies with its commitments to

the city of Detroit and its residents. Across the history of the foundation and the city itself, the collaboration between the two has proven indispensable, with the Kresge Foundation playing a key leadership role in navigating the city's ever-evolving opportunities and challenges. Notable efforts include opening up access to the city's waterfront with the creation of the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy; setting the city on a sustainable, forward-looking path through the drafting of the Detroit Future City plan; stabilizing and reconnecting neighborhoods across the city through the Kresge Innovative Projects: Detroit program; fostering a vibrant arts and culture ecosystem through the creation of the Gilda Awards, and, finally, assisting with the city's exit from bankruptcy and ensuring that the solutions put forward to address the city's financial challenges were always rooted in principles of justice and inclusivity. Overall, the ongoing collaboration between Detroit and the Kresge Foundation has amounted to over \$1 billion in investment made across the city. The impact of those investments on Detroit's many communities, neighborhoods, and families cannot be overstated.

Given this incredibly rich history and exceptional legacy of impact and partnership, I ask you to join me in recognizing the Kresge Foundation as it celebrates its 100th anniversary. As they begin their second century of philanthropic leadership, I am confident that they will continue to build on that good work.●

RECOGNIZING THE GREAT LAKES BAY REGIONAL CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU

● Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate the Great Lakes Bay Regional Convention and Visitors Bureau on the completion and dedication of the Henry G. Marsh Mural and Plaza Project beneath the I-675 bridge. Sharing the late mayor of Saginaw's name, the Henry Marsh Plaza now highlights a main gateway to downtown Saginaw with improvements to infrastructure, increased safety and space for pedestrian use. It is a privilege and honor to recognize the life and accomplishments of Henry Marsh and the commitment of Go Great Lakes Bay and the many other Saginaw leaders that came together to create this community gathering space.

Descended from an enslaved grandfather, Henry Marsh was born in 1921 in Knoxville, TN. His upbringing in the deep South enabled him to personally witness the struggles of Black Americans attempting to earn equal status as citizens. In 1942, Marsh was drafted into the U.S. Army for World War II, serving in North Africa, and Sicily—arriving at Anzio Beachhead in Italy just 3 days before the Allied invasion.

In December 1945, Henry Marsh was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army and returned to Knoxville Col-

lege where he was a founding member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity on campus and served as the organization's president. Henry and his wife Ruth were married in September 1948 in Virginia, before Marsh enrolled at Wayne State University Law School where he earned his law degree in 1950.

Henry and his family moved to Saginaw in 1954, where he opened a law practice and became deeply involved in the community. In 1960, he was approached by a group of businesspeople known as the Committee of Fifty, to run for Saginaw City Council. He became the first African-American to be elected to the council and received the highest vote total of all the candidates.

In 1967, Henry Marsh became the first Black mayor of Saginaw and one of the first three Black ayors elected in the U.S. Marsh held office during the tumultuous late 1960s. Three months into his term, riots broke out in Detroit and within 2 days, made their way to Saginaw. During his tenure as mayor, Saginaw was named an "All-American City" by Life Magazine, as well as a model city by HUD. Marsh served as mayor until 1969, when he returned to his law practice and remained deeply involved in the Saginaw community until his death in 2011 at age 89.

Encompassing a 1,560-square-foot area, the Henry Marsh Mural illustrates the late mayor's life and contributions to the city. The artist Stephen Hargash created a mural that showcases Marsh's devotion to his faith, family, and community. The mural reconnects Saginaw's North and South sides and acts as a centerpiece for the new urban space known as Henry Marsh Plaza.

Born out of a promise Annette Rummel, CEO of Go Great Lakes, made to the late mayor to turn the bridge named after him into a space he could be proud of, this mural and plaza project has transformed the area into a well-lit, pedestrian friendly space that reunites the community. This project is one of several legacy projects completed as part of the 2024 Memorial Cup hosted in Saginaw.

I trust that my Senate colleagues will join me in congratulating the Go Great Lakes Bay Convention and Visitor's Bureau and Saginaw leaders on the completion of the Henry Marsh Mural and Plaza Project honoring the legacy of Mayor Henry G. Marsh.●

TRIBUTE TO GAIL MCGOVERN

● Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I stand to recognize and congratulate Gail McGovern, president and CEO of the American Red Cross, on her retirement. Gail has been the President and CEO of the American Red Cross since 2008. She holds a bachelor of arts degree from Johns Hopkins University and an MBA from Columbia University.

Under Gail's leadership, the American Red Cross has helped countless Americans and Floridians in their mo-

ments of need. Since 2015, Gail and the American Red Cross have provided help and support for six hurricanes that impacted Florida: Hurricane Hermine in 2016, Hurricane Irma in 2017, Hurricane Michael in 2018, Hurricane Sally in 2020, Hurricane Ian in 2022, and Hurricane Idalia in 2023. In addition, the American Red Cross helped out brothers and sisters in Puerto Rico following Hurricane Maria in 2017.

Prior to joining the American Red Cross, Gail was a faculty member at the Harvard Business School, president of Fidelity Personal Investments, and executive vice president at AT&T's Consumers Markets Division.

One of the best things about the State of Florida is that when Floridians are in need, there is always a helping hand available; Gail, the American Red Cross, and their many committed volunteers are a prime example of that. It is my honor to congratulate Gail on her many achievements and on her retirement.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. PAUL LEBLANC

● Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, as the senior Senator from New Hampshire, I rise to celebrate the career of Southern New Hampshire University President Paul LeBlanc and congratulate him on his 21 years of leadership to the university, as well as his significant contributions to the higher education sector, as he steps down this summer.

Fueled by his own experience as a first-generation immigrant college student, Dr. LeBlanc has been driven throughout his career to make college more accessible and affordable to all learners, regardless of their personal circumstances. Appointed as SNHU's president in 2003, his work has created more inclusive opportunities for learners in New Hampshire, across the country and globally.

As SNHU's fifth president, with a reputation as a pioneer and leader in online education, Dr. LeBlanc has played a pivotal role in reshaping the university into a forward-thinking global institution committed to student success, accessibility, and innovation. Under Dr. LeBlanc's direction, SNHU grew from 2,500 students to more than 225,000 learners, making SNHU the largest nonprofit provider of higher education in the country. With his vision to make higher education more accessible, Dr. LeBlanc has conferred more than 200,000 degrees during his tenure at SNHU. The university also ranks among the most innovative universities in the country and as a top employer nationwide.

As a thought leader in learner-centered higher education innovation, Dr. LeBlanc is the author of two books, "Students First: Access, Equity, and Opportunity in Higher Education," published by Harvard Education Press in 2021, and "Broken: How Our Social Systems are Failing Us and How We Can Fix Them" published in 2022. His

written work explores the ways higher education has traditionally left some students behind and challenges the industry to rethink delivery models and evolve to meet students where they are.

Dr. LeBlanc has also been a steadfast community member in the city of Manchester. In 2023, LeBlanc was recognized as Citizen of the Year by the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce. Under his leadership, SNHU launched many community initiatives, including donating funds and volunteer hours to support people experiencing housing insecurity, delivering thousands of meals to Manchester K-12 students during the COVID-19 pandemic, and partnering with the YWCA NH to launch the Center for New Americans to support families who are new to the United States.

As a lifelong learner, Dr. LeBlanc is not retiring but going back to his original graduate work, studying the impact of new, paradigm-shifting technologies on society—specifically AI's impact on education and the workforce. I look forward to hearing his important insights on such a critical topic.

I congratulate Dr. Paul LeBlanc on his outstanding tenure as the president of Southern New Hampshire University and his positive impact on higher education systems and policy. I know that the SNHU community and educators throughout New Hampshire join me in thanking Dr. LeBlanc for his leadership and passion for expanding access to education.●

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 4541. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make certain provisions with respect to qualified ABLE programs permanent.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 4554. A bill to express support for protecting access to reproductive health care after the *Dobbs v. Jackson* decision on June 24, 2022.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-5021. A communication from the Program Analyst, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Assessing Fees for Excess and Unauthorized Grazing" (RIN0596-AD45) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 5, 2024; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5022. A communication from the Senior Advisor, Department of Health and Human

Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary for Financial Resources, Department of Health and Human Services, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 30, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5023. A communication from the Chair, Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "June 2024 Report to the Congress: Medicare and the Health Care Delivery System"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5024. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of firearms, parts, and components controlled under Category I of the U.S. Munitions List to Ukraine in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 24-021); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5025. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Poland in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 24-013); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5026. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to India in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 24-002); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5027. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Luxembourg and Mexico in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 23-098); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5028. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles, including technical data and defense services to the Republic of Korea and Singapore in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more and the manufacture of significant military equipment abroad (Transmittal No. DDTC 24-001); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5029. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles to Ukraine in the amount of \$14,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 24-042); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5030. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 3(d)(3) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed re-export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Ukraine in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 24-040); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5031. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, De-

partment of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles, including technical data to Ukraine in the amount of \$14,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 24-037); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5032. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Japan in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 23-099); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5033. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Food Additives Permitted in Feed and Drinking Water of Animals; Ethyl Cellulose" (Docket No. FDA-2023-F-0147) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 5, 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5034. A communication from the Deputy Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Valuation Assumptions and Methods" (RIN1212-AA55) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 10, 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5035. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel of the Division of Regulatory Services, Office of Postsecondary Education, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final priorities, requirements, and definitions - National Professional Development Program" (RIN1840-AD90) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5036. A communication from the Legal Counsel, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Procedures for Previously Exempt State and Local Government Employee Complaints of Employment Discrimination under Section 304 of the Government Employee Rights Act of 1991" (RIN3046-AB09) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 5, 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5037. A communication from the Legal Counsel, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Procedures for Previously Exempt State and Local Government Employee Complaints of Employment Discrimination under Section 304 of the Government Employee Rights Act of 1991" (RIN3046-AB09) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 11, 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5038. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Advisory Committee: Science Advisory Board to the National Center for Toxicological Research; Termination; Removal from List of Standing Committees" (Docket No. FDA-2024-N-2357) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 29, 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5039. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Administrative Destruction" (RIN0910-A159) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 29, 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. CARPER, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works:

Report to accompany S. 1111, a bill to enhance United States civil nuclear leadership, support the licensing of advanced nuclear technologies, strengthen the domestic nuclear energy fuel cycle and supply chain, and improve the regulation of nuclear energy, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118-182).

By Mr. HEINRICH, from the Joint Economic Committee:

Special Report entitled "Report of the Joint Economic Committee Congress of the United States on the 2024 Economic Report of the President" (Rept. No. 118-183).

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 Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. BUTLER, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. ROSEN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 4554. A bill to express support for protecting access to reproductive health care after the *Dobbs v. Jackson* decision on June 24, 2022; read the first time.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 4555. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to increase the age threshold for eligibility for child's insurance benefits on the basis of disability; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KING (for himself and Mr. ROUNDS):

S. 4556. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish the Office of Falls Prevention of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. LEE:

S. 4557. A bill to authorize the use of off-highway vehicles in certain areas of the Capitol Reef National Park, Utah; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself and Mr. DAINES):

S. 4558. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act with respect to the right of members of a federally recognized Indian Tribe in the United States and First Nations individuals in Canada to cross the borders of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CRUZ:

S. 4559. A bill to require benefit eligibility determinations to be made within a certain period of time; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LEE:

S. 4560. A bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to provide that State law shall

apply to the use of motor vehicles on roads within a System unit; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. LEE:

S. 4561. A bill to amend the Wilderness Act to allow local Federal officials to determine the manner in which nonmotorized uses may be permitted in wilderness areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. 4562. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to prohibit the practice of feeding excrement to farm animals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mrs. FISCHER (for herself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. RES. 737. A resolution supporting Senate military-connected fellowship opportunities, and for other purposes; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 133

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 133, a bill to extend the National Alzheimer's Project.

S. 134

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 134, a bill to require an annual budget estimate for the initiatives of the National Institutes of Health pursuant to reports and recommendations made under the National Alzheimer's Project Act.

S. 476

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 476, a bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to protect access to genetically targeted technologies.

S. 596

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) were added as cosponsors of S. 596, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make employers of spouses of military personnel eligible for the work opportunity credit.

S. 815

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) were added as cosponsors of S. 815, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the female telephone operators of the Army Signal Corps, known as the "Hello Girls".

S. 870

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr.

BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 870, a bill to amend the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 to authorize appropriations for the United States Fire Administration and firefighter assistance grant programs.

S. 1028

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1028, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand health care and benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs for military sexual trauma, and for other purposes.

S. 1159

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1159, a bill to amend the Equal Credit Opportunity Act to modify the requirements associated with small business loan data collection, and for other purposes.

S. 1183

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1183, a bill to prohibit discrimination on the basis of mental or physical disability in cases of organ transplants.

S. 1266

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1266, a bill to amend titles 10 and 38, United State Code, to improve benefits and services for surviving spouses, and for other purposes.

S. 1558

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1558, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the brave women who served in World War II as members of the U.S. Army Nurse Corps and U.S. Navy Nurse Corps.

S. 1885

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1885, a bill to eliminate employment-based visa caps on abused, abandoned, and neglected children eligible for humanitarian status, and for other purposes.

S. 1909

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the

Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1909, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the illegal modification of firearms, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. BENNET, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1909, *supra*.

S. 2372

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2372, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to streamline enrollment under the Medicaid program of certain providers across State lines, and for other purposes.

S. 2695

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2695, a bill to amend the Indian Law Enforcement Reform Act to provide for advancements in public safety services to Indian communities, and for other purposes.

S. 2994

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2994, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to support upgrades at existing hydroelectric dams in order to increase clean energy production, improve the resiliency and reliability of the United States electric grid, enhance the health of the Nation's rivers and associated wildlife habitats, and for other purposes.

S. 3047

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3047, a bill to award payments to employees of Air America who provided support to the United States from 1950 to 1976, and for other purposes.

S. 3369

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3369, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to restrict the possession of certain firearms, and for other purposes.

S. 3526

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3526, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require a lactation space in each medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

S. 3530

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr.

OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3530, a bill to retain Federal employees who are spouses of a member of the Armed Forces or the Foreign Service when relocating due to an involuntary transfer, and for other purposes.

S. 3641

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3641, a bill to require the Secretary of Defense to establish a pilot program for evidence-based perinatal mental health prevention for pregnant and postpartum members of the Armed Forces and dependents, and for other purposes.

S. 3722

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 3722, a bill to require a report on access to maternal health care within the military health system, and for other purposes.

S. 3964

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3964, a bill to amend title 23, United States Code, with respect to the highway safety improvement program, and for other purposes.

S. 3984

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3984, a bill to amend the State Justice Institute Act of 1984 to authorize the State Justice Institute to provide awards to certain organizations to establish a State judicial threat intelligence and resource center.

S. 4141

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) were added as cosponsors of S. 4141, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the FIFA World Cup 2026, and for other purposes.

S. 4279

At the request of Mr. ROMNEY, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) were added as cosponsors of S. 4279, a bill to require the Department of State and the Department of Defense to engage with the Government of Japan regarding areas of cooperation within the Pillar Two framework of the AUKUS partnership, and for other purposes.

S. 4511

At the request of Mr. LEE, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) were added as cosponsors of S. 4511, a bill to provide for the crediting of funds received by the National Guard Bureau as reimbursement from States.

S. 4516

At the request of Mr. VANCE, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) were added as cosponsors of S. 4516, a bill to ensure equal protection of the law, to prevent racism in the Federal Government, and for other purposes.

S. 4524

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 4524, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to prohibit discrimination against health care entities that do not participate in abortion, and to strengthen implementation and enforcement of Federal conscience laws.

S. 4539

At the request of Mr. SCHMITT, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4539, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make certain provisions with respect to qualified ABLE programs permanent.

S. 4541

At the request of Mr. SCHMITT, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4541, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make certain provisions with respect to qualified ABLE programs permanent.

S. 4552

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 4552, a bill to enhance the rights of domestic employees, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 45

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 45, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to contributions and expenditures intended to affect elections.

S.J. RES. 83

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 83, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives relating to "Definition of 'Engaged in the Business' as a Dealer in Firearms".

S.J. RES. 97

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD), the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 97, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of

title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to “Defining and Delimiting the Exemptions for Executive, Administrative, Professional, Outside Sales, and Computer Employees”.

S. CON. RES. 8

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 8, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that tax-exempt fraternal benefit societies have historically provided and continue to provide critical benefits to the people and communities of the United States.

S. RES. 599

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 599, a resolution protecting the Iranian political refugees, including female former political prisoners, in Ashraf-3 in Albania.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 737—SUPPORTING SENATE MILITARY-CONNECTED FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mrs. FISCHER (for herself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 737

Resolved,

SECTION 1. STARS OF VALOR FELLOWSHIPS PROGRAM.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term “eligible individual” means an individual who meets the eligibility criteria established under subsection (d)(1)(A);

(2) the term “Program” means the Stars of Valor Fellowships Program established under subsection (b); and

(3) the term “Sergeant at Arms” means the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than December 31, 2024, and subject to the availability of appropriations, the Sergeant at Arms shall establish a central program, to be known as the “Stars of Valor Fellowships Program”, to enable eligible individuals to serve in the military-connected fellowship programs of the Senate.

(2) COMPONENTS.—The Program shall oversee and provide fellowships through—

(A) the SFC Sean Cooley and SPC Christopher Horton Congressional Gold Star Family Fellowship Program established under section 1 of Senate Resolution 442 (117th Congress), agreed to November 4, 2021;

(B) the McCain-Mansfield Fellowship Program established under section 1 of Senate Resolution 443 (117th Congress), agreed to November 4, 2021;

(C) the Active-Duty Military Spouses Fellowship Program established under section 2; and

(D) any additional military-connected fellowship program for eligible individuals established in regulations promulgated by the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate.

(c) FELLOWSHIPS.—Under a fellowship in the Program, an eligible individual may

serve a 24-month fellowship in the office of a Senator.

(d) ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate shall promulgate regulations for the administration of the Program, including establishing the criteria for—

(A) eligibility to participate in the fellowship programs described in subsection (b)(2); and

(B) a method of prioritizing the assignment of fellowships to the offices of Senators under the Program, if the amount made available to carry out the Program for a fiscal year is not enough to provide fellowships in all offices requesting to participate in the Program for such fiscal year.

(2) PLACEMENT.—An eligible individual may serve in a fellowship under the Program at the office of a Senator in the District of Columbia or at a State office of the Senator.

(e) EXCLUSION OF APPOINTEES FOR PURPOSES OF COMPENSATION LIMITS.—The compensation paid to any eligible individual serving in a fellowship under the Program in the office of a Senator shall not be included in the determination of the aggregate gross compensation for employees employed by the Senator under section 105(d)(1) of the Legislative Branch Appropriation Act, 1968 (2 U.S.C. 4575(d)(1)).

(f) APPLICABILITY.—The requirements of this section shall apply to all fellowship programs described in subsection (b)(2).

(g) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) SFC SEAN COOLEY AND SPC CHRISTOPHER HORTON CONGRESSIONAL GOLD STAR FAMILY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.—Section 1(d) of Senate Resolution 442 (117th Congress), agreed to November 4, 2021, is amended by striking paragraph (3).

(2) MCCAIN-MANSFIELD FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.—Section 1(d) of Senate Resolution 443 (117th Congress), agreed to November 4, 2021, is amended by striking paragraph (3).

SEC. 2. ACTIVE-DUTY MILITARY SPOUSES FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term “eligible individual” means an individual who—

(A) is, as of the date of application for the Program, a spouse of a member of the Armed Forces serving on active duty; and

(B) meets any other eligibility criteria established for the Program by the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate under section 1(d)(1)(A);

(2) the term “Program” means the Active-Duty Military Spouses Fellowship Program established under subsection (b); and

(3) the term “Sergeant at Arms” means the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than December 31, 2024, and subject to the availability of appropriations, the Sergeant at Arms shall establish a fellowship program, to be known as the “Active-Duty Military Spouses Fellowship Program”, for eligible individuals.

(c) ADMINISTRATION.—The Sergeant at Arms shall carry out the Program through the Stars of Valor Fellowships Program under section 1.

SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF MAY 29, 2024, AS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS IN AGRICULTURE DAY TO RAISE AWARENESS AROUND MENTAL HEALTH IN THE AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY AND WORKFORCE AND TO CONTINUE TO REDUCE STIGMA ASSOCIATED WITH MENTAL ILLNESS

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration and that the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 710.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 710) supporting the designation of May 29, 2024, as “Mental Health Awareness in Agriculture Day” to raise awareness around mental health in the agricultural industry and workforce and to continue to reduce stigma associated with mental illness.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Ms. SMITH. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 710) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of May 23, 2024, under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

SUPPORTING SENATE MILITARY-CONNECTED FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 737, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 737) supporting Senate military-connected fellowship opportunities, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Ms. SMITH. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to and that the motion 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 resolution (S. Res. 737) was agreed to.

(The resolution is printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, JUNE 18,
2024

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, June 18; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that following the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Oler nomination, postcloture; further, that the cloture time be considered expired at 11:30 a.m.; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Tuesday's session, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order following the remarks of Senator KENNEDY.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

MEDIA

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, with me today is one of my colleagues in my office, Mr. Christian Amy.

Mr. President, I want to talk for a few minutes about America, about Washington, DC, and about Louisiana.

Every time I leave Washington, DC, and go back home to America, I am re-

minded of how parochial Washington, DC, can be, how removed it can be, how unaware it can be. We often hear people in the city where our Capitol sits say: Well, the American people just don't understand. The American people—you often hear—just don't know what they are talking about. They don't know what we know. They don't read the news. They don't keep up like we do.

So, recently, I conducted a poll to test that point of view, and some were surprised with the results of the poll. I was not. One of the questions I asked in the poll of the people of Louisiana is, How frequently would you say they follow the news?

About 70 percent of my people in Louisiana follow the news every single day because—actually, it is 67.8 percent. Some of my colleagues back home were surprised by that. I was not; 23.5 percent said a few times a week; and only 6.4 percent of my people don't consult the news or read the news very often.

I also, out of curiosity, tested a poll where my people were receiving their news: 39 percent of the people of Louisiana—70 percent of whom follow the news every single day—get their news from cable TV. Another 21.1 percent get their news from morning and evening broadcast television, not cable—local television news and national television news.

So, I guess, from one point of view—and I think the numbers bear this out in Louisiana—in terms of the source of news, television is king. Television is king.

Seventy percent—or, rather, sixty percent of my people, most of whom follow the news every single day, get their news either from cable TV, from the national evening and morning news, and from local television evening and morning news.

Twenty-seven percent of my people get their news primarily from the internet. To break that down, it is about 12.6 percent from social media apps—Facebook, Twitter; 4.7—almost 5 percent—from YouTube; and another 9.1 percent from Apple News, Google News, and those sorts of sites on the internet.

So television news for both national and, particularly, local is king in Louisiana, with 60 percent of the people saying that is my go-to news source, but the internet is also a substantial factor at 27 percent: 27 percent of my people—70 percent of whom read the news every day—get their news from the internet.

Radio news is also important in my State. Seven percent of my people and change listen to radio news as their primary source of news. Coming in last—consistent with national trends—only 4 percent of my people receive their news today from newspapers. My, how the world has changed.

I just found these numbers to be interesting. The source of news for most of my people was interesting to me, but I was very, very pleased to find that 70 percent of my people in Louisiana read the news every single day, and in most cases, they get it from television but also the internet and radio as well.

Sometimes we get along in Washington in terms of our perceptions of what is going on in the real America.

With that, I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:33 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, June 18, 2024, at 10 a.m.