

in front of 25,000 people, to talk about this issue. He was very plainspoken. He said: My son was addicted to heroin for 5 years. "It meant more to him than his family; it meant more to him than anything."

Unfortunately, there are fathers and mothers all over the State of Ohio who are experiencing what John had to experience with his son. He wants us to pass this legislation because he thinks it is going to help, and it will.

I think those who are addicted, those families who are being affected by this have been very patient. They are looking for more help from Washington, and they deserve it. Washington is not going to solve this problem. It is going to be solved in our communities, in our families, and in our hearts. But Washington can help and be a better partner, take the existing funds we are spending and spend them more wisely to actually affect the number of people who get addicted in the first place with better prevention and through better education, and then for those who are addicted, better treatment and recovery; help them get back on their feet.

Washington can help. That is what this legislation does. It is making Washington a better partner with State and local government and the nonprofits that are in the trenches doing the hard work every day.

I hope these reports I am hearing about delay and these tactics that are being used, unbelievably, by the administration to somehow make it appear as though this legislation isn't what they said it was back when they helped put it together and when they testified in favor of it—I hope that is just a distraction, and I hope people understand the significance of getting this done and getting it done now. It is already past time. We can't wait.

Again, people have been patient. It is now time for the U.S. Congress to face this issue, to address it through legislation that went through here with a 94-to-1 vote, to send it to the President for his signature and, more importantly, to send it to our communities around our country to begin to help turn the tide, save lives, and bring back hope.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

#### RUSSIA

Mr. SASSE. Mr. President, I rise to express my concern about troubling new developments in Russia. Russia's Parliament, the Federal Assembly, has just approved so-called antiterrorism legislation that actually criminalizes free speech and that attacks religious liberty. If President Putin signs this legislation into law in the coming weeks, it will be illegal for Christians to share their faith outside of the church building, as if faith is constrained by the four walls of a structure and belief by a single day of the week on the calendar.

In some ways, sadly, this isn't a surprise. There is a lot that is wrong with

Russia. We are witnessing a rising authoritarianism in a declining State—a rising authoritarianism in a declining State.

Moscow routinely tramples on the rights of the press, tramples on assembly, speech, on dissent, and on national sovereignty. Ask the families of murdered journalists. Ask the student groups facing intimidation. Ask the political dissidents who fear imprisonment. Ask the Ukrainian people who fear being fully overrun.

Why is this happening? Because Putin and his cronies think they can make Russia great again by hoarding wealth, by abusing power, and by crushing any and all dissent and opposition. They strike the pose of a strong man, but this is not real strength.

True strength is rooted in virtue: selflessness and sacrifice on behalf of the weak and the oppressed. Mr. Putin is driven by cheap imitation and intimidation, more akin to bullying; vice masquerading as virtue.

We know Russia's offenses are many and egregious. At the same time, Americans well understand it is not our national calling, nor is it within our power, to attempt to right every wrong in a broken world, but we should be clear about what is happening, as well as the fact that there is no easy fix. It is naive to hope Russia can be reformed with a reset button or with promises of future flexibility. Instead, we need to begin telling the truth about an increasingly aggressive actor on the global stage.

Again, let me be explicit. The United States does not have a solemn obligation to try to make the entire world free, but we absolutely do have an obligation to speak on behalf of those who are made speechless in the dark corners of this globe.

This Russian law would be an affront to free people everywhere, at home and abroad, who believe the rights of conscience—the rights of free speech and the freedom of religion and the freedom of assembly—are pre-political.

These freedoms do not ebb and flow with history. These freedoms do not rise and fall with the political fortunes of a despot. Governments do not give us these rights and governments cannot take these rights away. These rights of free speech, freedom of religion, and freedom of assembly belong to every man, woman, and child because all of us are image-bearers of our Creator.

I am speaking tonight because this new Russian legislation is emblematic of a growing destructive nationalism and of a thirst for power that cannot be ignored. Putin has a desire to squeeze down on civil society, on other venues for discussion and debate, and on other institutions outside of politics where human dignity can and should be expressed. He does this and he desires this not because he is strong but because he is weak.

We in this body, without regard to political party and representing all 50

States, must be sober and clear-eyed about Russia. We must become more sober and clearer-eyed about its intimidations and about its hostilities and about its dangerous trajectory.

We have a duty to be telling the truth early about where this may be headed.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SASSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar Nos. 473, 596, 601, 602, 603, 651, with no other executive business in order.

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

The clerk will report the nominations en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nominations of Daniel B. Maffei, of New York, to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner for a term expiring June 30, 2017; Rebecca F. Dye, of North Carolina, to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner for a term expiring June 30, 2020; Mary Beth Leonard, of Massachusetts, to be Representative of the United States of America to the African Union, with the rank and status of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary; Geeta Pasi, of New York, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Chad; Anne S. Casper, of Nevada, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Burundi; and Michael A. Khouri, of Kentucky, to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner for a term expiring June 30, 2021.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

Mr. SASSE. I know of no further debate on the nominations and ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc.

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

There being no further debate, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Maffei, Dye, Leonard Pasi, Casper, and Khouri nominations en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

Mr. SASSE. I ask unanimous consent that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

Mr. SASSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate

proceed to the consideration of Calendar Nos. 594, 606 through 650, and all nominations on the Secretary's desk; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

IN THE COAST GUARD

The following named officer for appointment to a position of importance and responsibility in the United States Coast Guard to the grade indicated under title 14, U.S.C., section 50:

*To be vice admiral*

Vice Adm. Fred M. Midgette

IN THE ARMY

The following Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

*To be major general*

Brig. Gen. Matthew T. Quinn

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

*To be rear admiral (lower half)*

Capt. Phillip E. Lee, Jr.

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

*To be rear admiral (lower half)*

Capt. Alan J. Reyes

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

*To be rear admiral (lower half)*

Capt. Mary C. Riggs

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

*To be rear admiral (lower half)*

Capt. Carol M. Lynch

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

*To be rear admiral (lower half)*

Capt. Mark E. Bipes

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

*To be rear admiral (lower half)*

Capt. Brian R. Guldbek

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

*To be rear admiral (lower half)*

Capt. Louis C. Tripoli

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

*To be rear admiral (lower half)*

Capt. Robert T. Durand

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Navy Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

*To be rear admiral (Lower Half)*

Capt. Shawn E. Duane

Capt. Scott D. Jones

Capt. William G. Mager

Capt. John B. Mustin

Capt. Matthew P. O'Keefe

Capt. John A. Schommer

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

*To be rear admiral*

Rear Adm. (1h) Thomas W. Luscher

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

*To be rear admiral*

Rear Adm. (1h) Brian S. Pecha

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

*To be rear admiral*

Rear Adm. (1h) Deborah P. Haven

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

*To be rear admiral*

Rear Adm. (1h) Mark J. Fung

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Navy Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

*To be rear admiral*

Rear Adm. (1h) Russell E. Allen

Rear Adm. (1h) William M. Crane

Rear Adm. (1h) Michael J. Dumont

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment as Chief of the National Guard Bureau and for appointment to the grade indicated in the Reserve of the Air Force under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 10502:

*To be general*

Lt. Gen. Joseph L. Lengyel

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

*To be rear admiral (lower half)*

Capt. Ronald R. Fritzemeier

IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

*To be major general*

Brig. Gen. Charles G. Chiarotti

Brig. Gen. David W. Coffman

Brig. Gen. Paul J. Kennedy

Brig. Gen. Joaquin F. Malavet

Brig. Gen. Loretta E. Reynolds

Brig. Gen. Russell A. Sanborn

Brig. Gen. George W. Smith, Jr.

Brig. Gen. Mark R. Wise

Brig. Gen. Daniel D. Yoo

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment as Chief of Staff, United States Air

Force, and appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 8033:

*To be general*

Gen. David L. Goldfein

IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be general*

Lt. Gen. Thomas D. Waldhauser

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment as Chief of Army Reserve/Commanding General, United States Army Reserve Command, and appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 3038:

*To be lieutenant general*

Maj. Gen. Charles D. Luckey

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

*To be major general*

Brig. Gen. Robert P. Walters, Jr.

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

Lt. Gen. Edward C. Cardon

The following Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

*To be major general*

Brig. Gen. Timothy P. Williams

The following Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

*To be brigadier general*

Col. Joseph J. Streff

The following Army National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

*To be brigadier general*

Col. Anthony P. Digiacoimo, II

Col. Daniel J. Hill

Col. Kenneth A. Nava

IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

Lt. Gen. David H. Berger

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

Maj. Gen. Jeffrey L. Harrigian

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the

grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be general*

Lt. Gen. Tod D. Wolters

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

Maj. Gen. Stayce D. Harris

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

Maj. Gen. Gwendolyn Bingham

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be vice admiral*

Rear Adm. Michael M. Gilday

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be vice admiral*

Rear Adm. Colin J. Kilrain

IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following named officer for appointment as Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps in the United States Marine Corps, and appointment to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 5044:

*To be general*

Lt. Gen. Glenn M. Walters

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

Maj. Gen. Gary L. Thomas

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

Maj. Gen. Lewis A. Craparotta

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

Maj. Gen. Joseph L. Osterman

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be general*

Lt. Gen. Terrence J. O'Shaughnessy

IN THE COAST GUARD

The following named officer for appointment to a position of importance and responsibility in the United States Coast Guard and to the grade indicated under title 14, U.S.C., section 50:

*To be vice admiral*

Rear Adm. Marshall B. Lytle, III

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment as the Vice Chief of Staff of the Air Force and appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 8034 and 601:

*To be general*

Lt. Gen. Stephen W. Wilson

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

Maj. Gen. VeraLinn Jamieson

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

Maj. Gen. Thomas W. Bergeson

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

*To be major general*

Brig. Gen. Thomas W. Geary

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

Lt. Gen. John L. Dolan

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

Maj. Gen. Richard M. Clark

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S  
DESK

IN THE AIR FORCE

PN1505 AIR FORCE nomination of Joseph H. Imwalle, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 26, 2016.

PN1526 AIR FORCE nomination of Lisa A. Seltman, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 6, 2016.

PN1527 AIR FORCE nominations (2) beginning ANDREW M. FOSTER, and ending Anthony P. Gaddi, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 6, 2016.

PN1554 AIR FORCE nominations (44) beginning DAVID B. BARKER, and ending ANGELA M. YUHAS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 16, 2016.

IN THE ARMY

PN1102 ARMY nomination of Bethany C. Aragon, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 28, 2016.

PN1105 ARMY nomination of Brian T. Watkins, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 28, 2016.

PN1109 ARMY nominations (12) beginning SUSAN M. CEBULA, and ending LISA N. YARBROUGH, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 28, 2016.

PN1111 ARMY nominations (89) beginning JOHN S. AITA, and ending DEREK C. WHITAKER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 28, 2016.

PN1141 ARMY nomination of Jason B. Blevins, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 1, 2016.

PN1480 ARMY nomination of Shawn R. Lynch, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 18, 2016.

PN1482 ARMY nomination of Rita A. Kostecke, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 18, 2016.

PN1483 ARMY nomination of Helen H. Brandabur, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 18, 2016.

PN1484 ARMY nomination of Barry K. Williams, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 18, 2016.

PN1506 ARMY nomination of Douglas Maurer, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 26, 2016.

PN1528 ARMY nomination of Ronald D. Hardin, Jr., which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 6, 2016.

PN1558 ARMY nomination of Edward J. Fisher which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 16, 2016.

PN1566 ARMY nomination of David W. Mayfield, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 23, 2016.

PN1567 ARMY nomination of Michael P. Garlington, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 23, 2016.

PN1568 ARMY nominations (2) beginning NOELA B. BACON, and ending WILLIAM D. PLUMMER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 23, 2016.

PN1569 ARMY nomination of Elizabeth M. Miller, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 23, 2016.

IN THE FOREIGN SERVICE

PN951—2 FOREIGN SERVICE nomination of Richard Gustave Olson, Jr., which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 19, 2015.

PN1419 FOREIGN SERVICE nomination of Emily M. Scott, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 28, 2016.

PN1486 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (90) beginning Amanda R. Ahlers, and ending Lee V. Wilbur, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 18, 2016.

PN1495 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (187) beginning Jocelyn N. Adams, and ending Brian Joseph Zacherl, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 19, 2016.

IN THE NAVY

PN418 NAVY nomination of Justin C. Legg, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 28, 2015.

PN1351 NAVY nominations (8) beginning TIMOTHY M. DUNN, and ending PEGGYTARA M. STOLYAROVA, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 14, 2016.

PN1352 NAVY nominations (2) beginning SUZANNE M. LESKO, and ending CHARLES

E. SUMMERS, II, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 14, 2016.

PN1353 NAVY nomination of Andrew F. Ulak, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 14, 2016.

PN1354 NAVY nominations (3) beginning KENNETH N. GRAVES, and ending BILLY B. OSBORNE, JR., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 14, 2016.

PN1355 NAVY nominations (3) beginning STEVE R. PARADELA, and ending REESE K. ZOMAR, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 14, 2016.

PN1356 NAVY nominations (18) beginning CHARLES M. BROWN, and ending KARL W. WICK, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 14, 2016.

PN1357 NAVY nominations (2) beginning ROBERT K. BAER, and ending JOHN L. MORRIS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 14, 2016.

PN1358 NAVY nominations (70) beginning BRIAN S. ANDERTON, and ending JAMES T. WORTHINGTON, III, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 14, 2016.

PN1359 NAVY nominations (14) beginning CHRISTOPHER J. R. DEMCHAK, and ending STEVEN R. THOMPSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 14, 2016.

PN1360 NAVY nominations (3) beginning JANETTE B. JOSE, and ending MICHAEL J. SCHWERIN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 14, 2016.

PN1361 NAVY nominations (4) beginning ERIC R. JOHNSON, and ending ANDREW R. WOOD, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 14, 2016.

PN1362 NAVY nominations (6) beginning JAREMA M. DIDOSZAK, and ending RICHARD M. SZCEPANSKI, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 14, 2016.

PN1363 NAVY nomination of Conrado G. Dungca, Jr., which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 14, 2016.

PN1364 NAVY nomination of Alexander L. Peabody, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 14, 2016.

PN1365 NAVY nomination of Jason G. Goff, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 14, 2016.

PN1440 NAVY nominations (5) beginning OLIVIA L. BETHEA, and ending CHRISTIAN A. STOVER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2016.

PN1441 NAVY nominations (64) beginning ROGER S. AKINS, and ending MICHAEL D. WITTENBERGER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2016.

PN1442 NAVY nominations (14) beginning RICHARD S. ADCOOK, and ending BENJAMIN W. YOUNG, JR., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2016.

PN1443 NAVY nominations (31) beginning ANDREW M. ARCHILLA, and ending DOUGLAS E. STEPHENS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2016.

PN1444 NAVY nominations (13) beginning SHANE D. COOPER, and ending RANDALL J. VAVRA, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2016.

PN1445 NAVY nominations (30) beginning JOHANNES M. BAILEY, and ending JOHN E. VOLK, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2016.

PN1446 NAVY nominations (31) beginning SUSAN L. AYERS, and ending MICHAEL YORK, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2016.

PN1447 NAVY nominations (12) beginning MICHAEL D. BROWN, and ending BRIAN J. STAMM, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2016.

PN1448 NAVY nominations (14) beginning JOHN R. ANDERSON, and ending BURR M. VOGEL, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2016.

PN1450 NAVY nominations (5) beginning RACHAEL A. DEMPSEY, and ending SEAN D. ROBINSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2016.

PN1451 NAVY nominations (10) beginning ANN E. CASEY, and ending DARYK E. ZIRKLE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2016.

PN1452 NAVY nominations (10) beginning CLAUDE W. ARNOLD, JR., and ending ROB W. STEVENSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2016.

PN1453 NAVY nominations (9) beginning ALBERT ANGEL, and ending SCOTT D. YOUNG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2016.

PN1454 NAVY nominations (9) beginning THOMAS L. GIBBONS, and ending KURT E. STRONACH, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2016.

PN1455—1 NAVY nominations (215) beginning DAVID L. AAMODT, and ending NATHAN S. YORK, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2016.

PN1456 NAVY nominations (5) beginning MICHAEL B. BILZOR, and ending MATTHEW A. TESTERMAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2016.

PN1457 NAVY nominations (15) beginning PAUL D. CLIFFORD, and ending DIANNA WOLFSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2016.

PN1458 NAVY nominations (8) beginning ERROL A. CAMPBELL, JR., and ending JEFFREY M. VICARIO, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2016.

PN1459 NAVY nominations (6) beginning JEFFREY J. CHOWN, and ending BRET A. WASHBURN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2016.

PN1460 NAVY nominations (2) beginning BROOK DEWALT, and ending PHILIP R. ROSI, II, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2016.

PN1461 NAVY nominations (4) beginning AARON C. HOFF, and ending JOHN M. TULLY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2016.

PN1507 NAVY nomination of Daniel L. Christensen, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 26, 2016.

PN1508 NAVY nomination of Howard D. Watt, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 26, 2016.

PN1509 NAVY nomination of Daniel Morales, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 26, 2016.

PN1510 NAVY nomination of Stefan M. Groetsch, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 26, 2016.

PN1511 NAVY nomination of Jeffrey M. Bierley, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 26, 2016.

PN1512 NAVY nomination of Michael G. Zakaroff, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 26, 2016.

PN1534 NAVY nominations (26) beginning RON J. ARELLANO, and ending WILLIAM M. WILSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 9, 2016.

PN1535 NAVY nominations (28) beginning KATIE M. ABDALLAH, and ending NATHAN J. WINTERS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 9, 2016.

PN1536 NAVY nominations (31) beginning MATTHEW J. ACANFORA, and ending JOSEPH A. ZERBY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 9, 2016.

PN1537 NAVY nominations (4) beginning KENNETH O. ALLISON, JR., and ending TIMOTHY L. YEICH, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 9, 2016.

PN1538 NAVY nominations (481) beginning BENJAMIN P. ABBOTT, and ending RICHARD J. ZAMBERLAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 9, 2016.

PN1539 NAVY nominations (16) beginning PETER BISSONNETTE, and ending ZAVEAN V. WARE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 9, 2016.

PN1540 NAVY nominations (35) beginning MYLENE R. ARVIZO, and ending ERROL A. WATSON, JR., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 9, 2016.

PN1541 NAVY nominations (15) beginning DAVID R. DONOHUE, and ending JASON D. WEAVER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 9, 2016.

PN1542 NAVY nominations (12) beginning RANDY J. BERTI, and ending MICHAEL WINDOM, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 9, 2016.

PN1543 NAVY nominations (6) beginning JODIE K. CORNELL, and ending SEAN B. ROBERTSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 9, 2016.

PN1544 NAVY nominations (16) beginning PATRICIA H. AJOY, and ending WADE C. THAMES, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 9, 2016.

PN1545 NAVY nominations (14) beginning ERIN M. CESCINI, and ending GIANCARLO WAGHELSTEIN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 9, 2016.

PN1559 NAVY nomination of Thomas W. Luton, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 16, 2016.

PN1570 NAVY nominations (4) beginning JENNIFER L. DONAHUE, and ending ROBERT R. STEEN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 23, 2016.

PN1571 NAVY nominations (3) beginning STEVEN D. BARTELL, and ending RON P.

NEITZKE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 23, 2016.

PN1572 NAVY nominations (2) beginning NATHAN JOHNSTON, and ending ROGER D. MUSSELMAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 23, 2016.

PN1573 NAVY nominations (11) beginning PHILIP ARMAS, JR., and ending CHRISTOPHER D. THOMPSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 23, 2016.

PN1574 NAVY nominations (10) beginning CATHERINE O. DURHAM, and ending REBECCA A. ZORNADO, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 23, 2016.

PN1575 NAVY nominations (13) beginning JAMES H. BURNS, and ending REBECCA S. SNYDER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 23, 2016.

PN1576 NAVY nominations (3) beginning JOHN M. HARDHAM, and ending MARTIN W. WADEWITZ, II, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 23, 2016.

PN1577 NAVY nominations (8) beginning PHILIP J. ABELDT, and ending MICHAEL B. VENER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 23, 2016.

PN1578 NAVY nominations (22) beginning LAUREN P. ARCHER, and ending ALISSA G. SPEZIALE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 23, 2016.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SASSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate 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.

#### 2016 SMITHSONIAN FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL CELEBRATING THE BASQUE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the first day of the 2016 Smithsonian Folklife Festival, which is featuring the Basque.

Since 1967, the Smithsonian's Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage has honored cultural traditions during its annual festival and celebrated the individuals who help keep important traditions alive. The festival has featured participants from all 50 States and more than 100 countries, and this summer, the festival will showcase Basque culture in Washington, DC.

The Basque migrated to the United States from an ancient and free culture located in the Pyrenees between France and Spain. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, the gold rush in Nevada and California drew the Basque out West. They became well-known for their strong work ethic and skill for business. As the western mines attracted workers from across the United States

and around the world, innovative Basques capitalized on the opportunity to raise sheep and sell sheep products to miners. During this time, the sheep industry in Nevada grew exponentially.

Following World War II, Nevada's Basque population soared, with a majority of Basques settling in northern Nevada. The Basque brought with them traditional dances in colorful costumes, music, their unique language, and cuisine that remains a hallmark in the State of Nevada. Communities throughout the State have benefited from the innovation of the Basque settlers and the traditions they and their descendants have kept alive.

Over the years, the Basque have become a part of Nevada communities, established businesses, and served our Nation as doctors, lawyers, scientists, and teachers. The sons of Basque parents, Paul and Robert Laxalt, are among those who have earned a place in Nevada history, becoming well-known for their strong Basque roots and accomplishments. Paul dedicated his life to public service by serving as the Governor of Nevada and as a U.S. Senator, and Robert was a successful writer who captured the Basque experience in the American West in books such as "Sweet Promised Land" and "The Basque Hotel."

The importance of the Basque's impact on Nevada history is exemplified by the William A. Douglass Center for Basque Studies at the University of Nevada, Reno, Nevada's land grant university. The center maintains an extensive collection of Basque oral history and provides students the opportunity to gain expertise in Basque culture and tradition. The center, along with so many others in the State of Nevada and throughout the Nation, have worked hard to keep the rich history and spirit of Basque culture and tradition thriving in the United States.

I am pleased the Smithsonian Folklife Festival will celebrate this incredible culture for this year's festival, and I welcome the Nevadans who have traveled to Washington to participate in the 2016 Smithsonian Folklife Festival.

#### THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF SHELBY COUNTY V. HOLDER

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, last Saturday was the third anniversary of the Supreme Court's *Shelby County v. Holder* decision. In this case, a divided Court voted 5-4 to gut the Voting Rights Act. The Court struck down the provision of the Voting Rights Act that required certain jurisdictions with a documented history of discrimination to "preclear" any changes to their voting laws with the Department of Justice.

In the 3 years since *Shelby County*, Democrats and a small handful of Republicans have sought to restore the Voting Rights Act. Unfortunately, the majority of Republicans in Congress have obstructed efforts to reinstate ro-

bust Federal voting protections. As a result, 2016 will mark the first Presidential election without the full protections of the Voting Rights Act since this historic legislation was signed into law in 1965.

The restrictions on voting that many Americans face today can be traced back to the 2010 midterm election. After that election, in which Republicans won control of several State legislative chambers and governorships, State lawmakers across the country introduced burdensome voting laws. These laws ranged from strict voter identification requirements to cuts in early voting. At the time, the Voting Rights Act served as a backstop, preventing States covered by the preclearance requirement from implementing changes that had a discriminatory purpose or effect.

That is why the *Shelby County* decision in 2013 had an immediate impact. Released from preclearance requirements, States with discriminatory histories were free to move forward with new restrictions on voting. For example, within hours of the *Shelby County* decision, Texas State officials announced that they would immediately implement a photo ID requirement for in-person voting that Texas first tried to put in place in 2011. This burdensome voter ID law had previously been blocked by both the Department of Justice and a Federal appeals court, due to the law's harmful impact on poor and minority voters. As a result of this law going into effect, we heard disturbing stories of a 93-year-old veteran and nearly 70-year-old doctor who were turned away from the polls in Texas in 2014 because their IDs did not meet the onerous new requirements.

During my time as chairman of the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Human Rights, I held a series of hearings that examined restrictive State voting laws. During these hearings, we heard over and over again that these laws have a disproportionate impact on lower-income, minority, youth, elderly, and other vulnerable voting populations.

I asked the State officials at each of my hearings whether there were any widespread instances of voter fraud to justify these laws, and they were unable to point to any examples. There have been only a handful of prosecutions over the last decade. This clearly is not a problem in need of a solution. This is clearly an effort to restrict the opportunity to vote for certain Americans.

This year, voters in 17 States will face restrictions that they have not previously experienced in a Presidential election. Eight of these States were previously covered by the preclearance provision in the Voting Rights Act.

Recent primary elections in many of these States gave voters a taste of potential problems to come in the general election. In Maricopa County, AZ, some voters were forced to endure