across different backgrounds, different political parties, and different places of origin and different communities—they weaved together a State of neighbors and left a lasting legacy. That legacy is that we love one another as we have been called to do. May we continue to be grateful for their legacies of service and live lives that would make them and their families proud.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. MCSALLY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

## HONORING OFFICER MARSHALL WATERS

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, I am here today to pay tribute to three brave law enforcement officers in Louisiana who were recently shot in the line of duty, and, sadly, one died. I begin with the man who died.

While on duty, Mangham Police Officer Marshall Waters pulled over a stolen vehicle on October 17. He was shot by the person in the car, who fled the scene and eventually crashed the car. Officer Waters later died from that injury on November 5.

Mangham Police Chief Perry Fleming says that Officer Waters was born a servant. He was a paramedic and previously served as a firefighter in nearby Franklin Parish.

Officer Waters' death will be felt throughout Northeast Louisiana. Throughout his lifetime of service, he truly touched the hearts of many. His community honored him last night with a candlelight vigil. He will be laid to rest later this week.

## TRIBUTE TO OFFICER TREVOR ABNEY

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, I would also like to recognize New Orleans Police Officer Trevor Abney, who was shot in the face and fortunately has survived.

Officer Abney and Officer Brooke Duncan were on patrol in New Orleans on October 30. Without warning and for no reason, somebody walked by and shot through the window, striking Officer Abney in the face. He was taken to the hospital. He is said to be in good spirits, but, let's face it, you get shot in the face, you have a road of recovery ahead of you. Officer Duncan received a graze wound during the encounter. Fortunately, both officers are expected to do well. Again, the motive for the attack remains unknown, and the suspects are in custody.

These attacks are tragic reminders of the danger that law enforcement officers face every day when they report for duty. They know it. They accept the risk. Their family accepts the risk. Their children accept the risk. Their spouse accepts the risk. They accept this risk because it serves our greater good.

We owe a debt of gratitude to our law enforcement officers for their willingness to put their lives on the line—even sacrificing it, as Officer Waters did—to keep us safe.

I ask that all join in praying for Officer Waters' family as they grieve his loss, and I ask you to join me in prayer for Officer Abney's recovery. The road ahead will be difficult, but knowing that our country supports them during these partisan times can make the difference.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 863.

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 bill clerk read the nomination of Aileen Mercedes Cannon, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. 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 bill 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 Aileen Mercedes Cannon, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida.

Mitch McConnell, James E. Risch, Joni Ernst, Marsha Blackburn, Mike Crapo, James Lankford, Thom Tillis, Roy Blunt, Roger F. Wicker, Pat Roberts, Mike Rounds, John Cornyn, John Hoeven, Jerry Moran, Lamar Alexander, Mike Braun, David Perdue.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call be waived.

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

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session to 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.

## TRIBUTE TO ANDREA GHEZ, AND WOMEN IN SCIENCE

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, more, perhaps, than any event in our lifetimes, the COVID–19 pandemic has focused our minds on the life-and-death value of scientific research and discovery.

As the entire world waits anxiously for safe, effective, affordable vaccines and medical treatments that can protect us against this deadly virus, the recent announcements of the 2020 Nobel Prizes in science gives us reasons for hope.

While the new Nobel science laureates are not themselves involved in COVID–19 research, collectively, they have found answers to some of the most fundamental questions in science, they have made medical discoveries that have already saved millions of lives worldwide and may one day soon enable us to cure cancer and other deadly diseases.

There is another reason to be hopeful about the 2020 Nobel science laureates. For only the second time in history, women scientists received two of the three Nobel science prizes, for physics and for chemistry. And for the first time ever, two women won a Nobel science award for research they pioneered on their own, without the help of male colleagues. Their achievements underscore why we need to continue clearing hurdles for women and girls as they navigate careers in science, technology, engineering, and math. We can't afford to ignore the scientific potential of half of our society. We need all hands on deck.

Let me tell you about these new Nobel science laureates.

The 2020 Nobel Prize in Chemistry goes to Jennifer Doudna and Emmanuelle Charpentier for their work on CRISPR-Cas9, a revolutionary advancement in biomedical science that enables scientists to edit and change DNA with high precision.

Jennifer Doudna is an American biochemist at the University of California, Berkeley, and Emmanuelle Charpentier is a French microchemist and director of the Max Planck Institute for Infection Biology in Berlin. They are the sixth and seventh women in history to receive the chemistry prize and the first all-women team to receive a Nobel in any science.

In less than a decade since the pair wrote a paper demonstrating the power of CRISPR-Cas9, the technique has

transformed how basic science is done. Scientists are using CRISPR to ask fundamental questions about life, such as which genes are essential to a cell's survival. Doctors are testing it as a cure for genetic conditions such as sickle cell disease and hereditary blindness, and plant scientists are using it to create new crops.

People in my home State of Illinois are especially proud of Andrea Ghez, a 2020 Nobel physics laureate who grew up in Chicago and was encouraged to pursue a career in science by a gifted teacher at the University of Chicago Laboratory School.

Dr. Ghez, director of the UCLA Galactic Center Group, received the Nobel for her pioneering research on the supermassive black hole at the center of our galaxy. She describes her research as ''extreme astrophysics.'' Her discoveries have enabled scientists to explore black holes and their fundamental role in the evolution of the universe.

Dr. Ghez and her team conduct their research at the W.M. Keck Observatory in Hawaii. She is only the fourth woman to receive the physics prize. She shares half of the prize with Reinhard Genzel of UC Berkeley and the Max Planck Institute for Extraterrestrial Physics in Berlin. The other half of the prize was awarded to Roger Penrose of the University of Oxford.

Dr. Ghez has earned numerous honors for her research, including election to the National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. In 2019, she was awarded an honorary degree by Oxford University.

When she was a girl, she wanted to be the first woman to walk on the moon. She attributes her love of science partly to a woman who taught her nearly 40 years ago at the University of Chicago Laboratory School. Judith Keane was the only woman in the Lab School's physical sciences department. Dr. Ghez has said how important it was for her to see a woman in that role.

For much of history, women's involvement in science has been discouraged and their achievements have been ignored. Nevertheless, they have persisted. A few examples:

In 1903, Marie Curie became the first woman to win the Nobel Prize for Physics, for her discovery of radioactivity. She won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry 8 years later for her work in isolating pure radium. She remains the only woman in history to ever win the Nobel twice and the only human to ever win a Nobel Prize in two different sciences.

Rachel Carson was a marine biologist and environmentalist whose groundbreaking book, ''Silent Spring,'' helped launch the modern environmental movement.

Rosalind Franklin, a British chemist and molecular biologist, was one of the key figures behind unlocking the structure of human DNA, although her contributions went largely unrecognized.

Barbara McClintock was an American geneticist and the only woman ever to have been awarded the Nobel Prize for Medicine by herself. In 1993 she won the the Nobel Prize for her discovery of the ''jumping gene'' or the ability of genes to change position on the chromosome.

Ruth Rogan Benerito was a chemist and pioneer in bioproducts who spent most of her career at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. She is credited with saving the cotton industry in post-WWII America through her discovery of a process to produce wrinkle-free, stain-free, and flame-resistant cotton fabrics.

Navy Rear Admiral Grace Hopper first developed computer languages and a compiler to translate them into machine code. She developed computer languages written in English, rather than mathematical notation, including COBOL, which is still in use today.

Katherine Johnson was an African-American mathematician and NASA space scientist who made enormous contributions to America's space programs by her incorporation of computing tools. She calculated key trajectories for America's first manned space flight and for the 1969 Apollo 11 flight to the moon.

Mae Jemison is a physician, chemist, biologist, and a former NASA astronaut. As a girl growing up on the South Side of Chicago, she was inspired to become an astronaut after watching Star Trek's Lt. Uhuru, the only Black woman aboard the Starship Enterprise. In 1992, she became the first Black woman to travel into space.

Despite the achievements of these and other women, the tradition in science of excluding women and other underrepresented groups at prestigious scientific meetings and conferences is so pervasive that some scientists sometimes refer wryly to such panels as ''manels.''

Dr. Francis Collins is director of the National Institutes of Health and a brilliant scientist. In June 2019, he announced that he would no longer speak at any science conference where women and other minority scientists were not included. He challenged other leaders in bioscience to do the same. Fortunately, some are. More should. As I said, we need all hands on deck.

I will close with this. About a week after the 2020 Nobel Prizes announcements, the winner of the 2020 3M Young Scientist Challenge was announced. That is the Nation's top science prize for middle schoolers. It carries a $25,000 award.

The winner this year is a 14-year-old Indian-American girl from Frisco, TX, Anika Chebrolu. Two years ago, she began studying the Spanish Influenza of 1918 that killed at least 50 million people worldwide. Last year, she came with a bad case of the seasonal flu herself and threw herself into finding a cure. She discovered a molecule that may lead to the development of a new antiviral drug to treat COVID. The molecule binds to the spiky protein of the novel coronavirus and inhibits the spread of the virus into human cells.

Supporting the achievements of girls and women in STEM fields can help solve some of the greatest afflictions of our time and solve some of the deepest mysteries of our universe. It is a profoundly wise investment. Congratulations to the new women Nobel science laureates of 2020. May there be many more who follow in their footsteps.

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

## VOTE EXPLANATION

● Mr. TESTER. Madam President, I was absent due to a family health matter requiring my attention when the Senate voted on vote No. 226 on confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 865, James Ray Knepp II, of Ohio, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Ohio. On vote No. 226, had I been present, I would have voted yea.●

## ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Madam President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD–423.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY COOPERATION AGENCY,
*Arlington, VA.*

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH,
*Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 20–73 concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Australia for defense articles and services estimated to cost $46 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

HEIDI H. GRANT,
*Director.*

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 20–73

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Australia.