

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 145) designating the first week of April 2021 as "National Asbestos Awareness Week".

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

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 145) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

RECOGNIZING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF GREECE AND CELEBRATING DEMOCRACY IN GREECE AND THE UNITED STATES

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 17, S. Res. 34.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 34) recognizing the 200th anniversary of the independence of Greece and celebrating democracy in Greece and the United States.

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

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I come to the floor in honor of an historic occasion: the 200th anniversary of Greece's independence. I am delighted to join the Greek-American community in New Jersey and across the United States in celebrating this bicentennial. The bonds of friendship between the United States and Greece are unbreakable, and as I stand here, in the center of American democracy, I am reminded of the strength of the shared democratic values on which our long partnership is based.

Greece has made incredible contributions to the world, not least of which is developing the ideals of democracy and rule of law that inspired our Founding Fathers to establish our American system of government. The very architecture of the Capitol building is a tribute to the foundational role Greece played in the shaping of our democracy and society. The democratic ideals developed in ancient Greece continue to motivate Americans and people around the world today.

The people of the United States in turn worked to support the people of Greece as they began their own struggle for independence 200 years ago.

American Philhellene Committees, comprised of ordinary Americans, sprung up to support the Greek fight for freedom through fundraising and humanitarian assistance.

Members of Congress, including Daniel Webster applauded "the struggle of an interesting and gallant people . . . contending against fearful odds . . . for the common privilege of human nature." In a letter to Greek scholar Adamantios Koraes, whose work formed the intellectual basis for the Greek independence struggle, Thomas Jefferson demonstrated his support by writing that "no people sympathise more feelingly than ours with the sufferings of your countrymen, none offer more sincere and ardent prayers to heaven for their success."

Several American Philhellenes traveled to Greece to assist the Greek people more directly. Dr. Samuel Gridley Howe, who later became a prominent voice in America's fight to end slavery, served with the Greek army as a surgeon and a soldier. Jonathan Peckham Miller, another future noted abolitionist, also served in the Greek army. George Jarvis fought alongside the Greek people, as well as working to provide food, medicine, and clothing to those who needed it with the support of the American Philhellene Committees.

The bonds between the peoples and governments of Greece and the United States have lasted throughout our countries' long history and are stronger than ever today. Greece is an invaluable partner to the United States as a NATO member, as an EU member, and in promoting peace and stability in the Balkans and the Eastern Mediterranean region. Greece's unwavering commitment to democracy and the rule of law makes it a truly reliable ally in the region and an increasingly critical one as we face the challenges of the 21st century.

I am proud that Congress demonstrated its support for further boosting U.S.-Greece cooperation and U.S. support for the Greece-Cyprus-Israel trilateral, with the passage of the Eastern Mediterranean Security and Energy Partnership Act a little over a year ago. Ensuring full implementation of this act is one of my priorities as chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee.

The past few years have seen critical developments in U.S.-Greece relations. I am grateful to the leadership of officials in both countries whose work has helped U.S.-Greece ties reach their strongest level ever, including Ambassador Geoff Pyatt, and I look forward to building on their fantastic efforts in the months and years to come.

This 200th anniversary of Greece's independence truly is a time to celebrate: a time to celebrate Greece's hard-won freedom; a time to celebrate the bonds between our peoples, and especially the many contributions Greek Americans have made to this country; and a time to celebrate our countries' shared history and democratic values,

which will be the basis of our countries' cooperation for years to come.

This week, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee unanimously approved a resolution congratulating the people of Greece on the 200th anniversary of their independence. I am grateful to Senator BARRASSO for joining me in leading this resolution and to my many Senate colleagues on both sides of the aisle who have cosponsored this resolution. With the passage of this resolution every year, Congress—and, through us, the American people—send a clear message of support for the Greek people and our countries' enduring partnership.

Greece's 200th independence anniversary serves not only as a reminder of our countries' long friendship, but also as a time for us to look to build on that history and strengthen our partnership for generations to come. The Eastern Mediterranean region and the world face unprecedented challenges, and growing the U.S.-Greece relationship is more critical than ever for our shared security and stability. I look forward to working with the people of Greece and the Greek-American community to make the vision of an even stronger U.S.-Greece relationship a reality.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 34) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of February 4, 2021, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair announces, on behalf of the Republican Leader, pursuant to Public Law 70-770, the appointment of the following individual to the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission: The Honorable JOHN BOOZMAN of Arkansas.

The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to Public Law 94-304, as amended by Public Law 99-7, appoints the following Senators as members of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki) during the 117th Congress: The Honorable ROGER WICKER of Mississippi; The Honorable JOHN BOOZMAN of Arkansas; The Honorable MARCO RUBIO of Florida; and The Honorable THOM TILLIS of North Carolina.

The Chair announces, on behalf of the Republican Leader, pursuant to Public Law 101-509 the reappointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress: Deborah Skaggs of Kentucky.

The Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to the provisions of

S. Res. 64, adopted March 5, 2013, appoints the following Senators as members of the Senate National Security Working Group for the 117th Congress: DIANNE FEINSTEIN of California (Administrative Co-Chair); JACK REED of Rhode Island (Co-Chair); ROBERT MENENDEZ of New Jersey (Co-Chair); RICHARD J. DURBIN of Illinois (Co-Chair); BENJAMIN L. CARDIN of Maryland; ROBERT P. CASEY, Jr. of Pennsylvania; TAMMY DUCKWORTH of Illinois; MARGARET WOOD HASSAN of New Hampshire; KYRSTEN SINEMA of Arizona; and RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK of Georgia.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations: Calendar Nos. 41, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 56, and all nominations placed on the Secretary's desk in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and Space Force; nominations be confirmed en bloc. I further ask 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 to any of the nominations; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

IN THE SPACE FORCE

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

To be brigadier general

Col. Dennis O. Bythewood
Col. Todd R. Moore
Col. Devin R. Pepper
Col. James E. Smith

IN THE NAVY

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

To be rear admiral

Rear Adm. (lh) James A. Aiken
Rear Adm. (lh) Michael E. Boyle
Rear Adm. (lh) Keith B. Davids
Rear Adm. (lh) Leonard C. Dollaga
Rear Adm. (lh) Christopher S. Gray
Rear Adm. (lh) John E. Gumbleton
Rear Adm. (lh) Sara A. Joyner
Rear Adm. (lh) James A. Kirk
Rear Adm. (lh) Andrew J. Loisel
Rear Adm. (lh) Brendan R. McLane
Rear Adm. (lh) Peter G. Vasely
Rear Adm. (lh) James P. Waters, III
Rear Adm. (lh) George M. Wikoff

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

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Christopher D. Alexander
Capt. Sean R. Bailey
Capt. Thomas R. Buchanan
Capt. Christopher J. Cavanaugh
Capt. Brad J. Collins
Capt. Jennifer S. Couture

Capt. William R. Daly
Capt. Erik J. Eslich
Capt. Ronald A. Foy
Capt. Patrick J. Hannifin
Capt. Christopher A. Kijek
Capt. Oliver T. Lewis
Capt. Stephen G. Mack
Capt. Benjamin R. Nicholson
Capt. Randall W. Peck
Capt. Benjamin G. Reynolds
Capt. Mark A. Schafer

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

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Ronald J. Piret
Capt. Ralph R. Smith, III

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

To be rear admiral

Rear Adm. (lh) Joseph D. Noble, Jr.

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

To be rear admiral

Rear Adm. (lh) William E. Chase, III
Rear Adm. (lh) John A. Okon

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 brigadier general

Col. Joseph R. Clearfield
Col. Mark H. Clingan
Col. Simon M. Doran
Col. Walker M. Field
Col. Anthony M. Henderson
Col. Michael E. McWilliams
Col. Matthew T. Mowery
Col. Andrew M. Niebel
Col. Ahmed T. Williamson

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

To be brigadier general

Col. Sean N. Day

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

IN THE COAST GUARD

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Coast Guard to the grade indicated under title 14, U.S.C., section 2121(e):

To be commander

Jerry L. Smith

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Mark A. Hashimoto

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 admiral

Vice Adm. Samuel J. Paparo, Jr.

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

IN THE AIR FORCE

PN135 AIR FORCE nominations (241) beginning TASRIF AHMED, and ending ISAAC D. YOURISON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 22, 2021.

PN136 AIR FORCE nominations (41) beginning HAIDER W. ALJEWARI, and ending

THOMAS M. WOOLF, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 22, 2021.

PN137 AIR FORCE nominations (113) beginning DANIEL JAMES ABER, and ending DANIEL SCOTT ZEVITZ, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 22, 2021.

PN138 AIR FORCE nominations (75) beginning ERIN E. ARTZ, and ending SETH P. WILSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 22, 2021.

PN140 AIR FORCE nominations (123) beginning MICHELLE R. ALDERS, and ending APRIL LASHEL WOODY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 22, 2021.

PN141 AIR FORCE nominations (41) beginning AARON J. AGIRRE, and ending GREGORY S. ZILINSKI, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 22, 2021.

PN142 AIR FORCE nominations (23) beginning BENJAMIN BERZINIS, and ending CLINTON K. WAHL, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 22, 2021.

PN143 AIR FORCE nominations (55) beginning JOSE C. AGUIRRE, and ending SCOTT M. ZELASKO, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 22, 2021.

PN144 AIR FORCE nominations (14) beginning NICHOLAS B. DUVAL, and ending SCOTT D. WRIGHT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 22, 2021.

PN145 AIR FORCE nominations (6) beginning DIANE M. CALDERA, and ending WILLIAM A. PASHLEY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 22, 2021.

PN146 AIR FORCE nominations (74) beginning BRYAN MARK BAILEY, and ending JASON P. WILLEY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 22, 2021.

PN147 AIR FORCE nomination of Conn P. McKelvey, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 22, 2021.

PN148 AIR FORCE nominations (3) beginning ADAM H. FISHER, and ending SYLVETTE ORTIZ, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 22, 2021.

PN149 AIR FORCE nominations (26) beginning TINA C. BENIVEGNA, and ending GIA MARIE WILSON-MACKEY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 22, 2021.

PN150 AIR FORCE nominations (5) beginning GARY L. FRISARD, and ending BRIAN J. PEARSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 22, 2021.

PN151 AIR FORCE nominations (2) beginning BARRY E. DICKSON, JR., and ending AMY L. HUNT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 22, 2021.

PN152 AIR FORCE nominations (3) beginning AMIE M. DOUGLAS, and ending SEMIH S. KUMRU, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 22, 2021.

PN153 AIR FORCE nominations (12) beginning ROBERT E. BEYLER, and ending NICOLE P. WISHART, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 22, 2021.