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Senate

(Legislative day of Tuesday, May 17, 2022)

The Senate met at 10 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the Honorable TINA SMITH, a Senator from the State of Minnesota.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Almighty God, who stretched the horizon across the ocean, You know we have no power in ourselves. Without You, we cannot prevail.

Remind us of the wisdom of Psalms 127:1, which states:

Unless the Lord builds a house, the work of the builders is wasted. Unless the Lord protects a city, guarding it with sentries will do no good.

Today, work through our lawmakers to build an edifice for freedom that will endure. Lord, inspire them to enact laws that will please You. Use our Senators to produce a harvest of righteousness that exalts our Nation. And, Lord, bless Ukraine.

We pray in Your awesome 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 (Mr. LEAHY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 19, 2022.

To the Senate:

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

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

ADDITIONAL UKRAINE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2022—Resumed

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 7691, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 7691) making emergency supplemental appropriations for assistance for the situation in Ukraine for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Schumer amendment No. 5035, to add an effective date.

Schumer amendment No. 5036 (to amendment No. 5035), to modify the effective date.

Schumer motion to commit the bill to the Committee on Appropriations, with instructions, Schumer amendment No. 5037, to add an effective date.

Schumer amendment No. 5038 (to the instructions) amendment No. 5037), to modify the effective date.

Schumer amendment No. 5039 (to amendment No. 5038), to modify the effective date.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

H.R. 7691

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, today the Senate will approve more le-

thal assistance for Ukraine, and it is going to be a big bipartisan landslide.

As a matter of moral principle, the United States is proud to support a sovereign democracy's self-defense. Innocent Ukrainians have been subjected to wanton cruelty. But aid for Ukraine goes far beyond charity. The future of America's security and core strategic interests will be shaped by the outcome of this fight.

Anyone concerned about the cost of supporting a Ukrainian victory should consider the much larger costs should Ukraine lose. In Europe, close allies and trading relationships would suddenly be hundreds of miles closer to the territory of an aggressive, emboldened autocrat. Our own security requirements on the continent would grow substantially.

And adversaries on the other side of the world would be tempted to follow Russia's lead. Communist China has already been stepping up its saber-rattling toward the free people of Taiwan: more tough talk, more airspace incursions, more evidence of their utter disregard for the rule of law.

Our friends in the Pacific see this connection very clearly. As Japan's Prime Minister put it, "We must show that there are consequences"—consequences—"to violence by Russia. Ukraine may be East Asia tomorrow."

Many of us are convinced that China is our most significant strategic challenge. Successful, long-term competition with the PRC will require having European partners firmly on our side. We will sorely need the trust and the relationships that abandoning Ukraine would exhaust. Turning our backs on Ukraine would harm our goals in Asia, not advance them.

So I will be a proud vote for America's national interest and vote to approve this badly needed assistance today. I encourage every Senator on

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



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both sides to join this bipartisan super-majority. The most expensive and painful thing America could possibly do in the long run would be to stop investing in sovereignty, stability, and deterrence before it is too late.

NATO

Madam President, now on a related matter, last weekend, I was honored to meet with the leaders of Sweden and Finland in their capitals and discuss their pursuit of membership in NATO. Senators COLLINS, CORNYN, BARRASSO, and I visited Stockholm and Helsinki just as their elected governments were preparing to take the historic step of applying for NATO membership.

It will be a further honor to cohost our friends President Niinistö and Prime Minister Andersson here in the Capitol later today.

For 73 years, NATO's collective strength has preserved peace in Europe and security for the United States and for Canada. Even from outside NATO's membership roster, Sweden and Finland have long been two of our most capable and reliable partners. Each has invested seriously in the sort of modern weapons systems that can operate seamlessly alongside our own.

While clearly part of the West, these countries have until now preferred a nonaligned posture. But Putin's aggression has changed everything. It is crystal clear which alliance supports basic international principles like sovereignty, stability, and human rights and which wannabe empires do not.

Europe is rightly recognizing that even if Putin is stopped in Ukraine, he will remain dangerous. He will learn lessons and adapt. More importantly, President Xi will learn lessons as well.

All our allies should take a hard look at their military requirements and invest in modernization. The accession of Sweden and Finland would be a strong step in that direction. Finland recently agreed to buy 64 F-35 fighter planes. They already commit 2 percent of their GDP to defense, and Sweden is on pace to reach that target very soon. These nations are setting an example which current treaty allies would do well to follow.

So I will be proud to continue amplifying their case for accession however I can, beginning with the meeting the Democratic leader and I will host later today.

INFLATION

Madam President, now on one final matter, today, the average price that American families pay for regular unleaded set an alltime high for the 10th day in a row—10 straight days of recordbreaking gas prices.

Getting to work, running errands, driving to church, visiting loved ones, hitting the highway for a modest family vacation—all of it costs 88 percent more at the pump today than it cost when President Biden put his hand on the Bible last year. And it is not even Memorial Day yet. The unofficial summer driving season hasn't even begun.

To be clear, this is not just Putin's price hike. The year 2021 saw the big-

gest 1-year gas price increase in three decades, and that was actually before Russia's escalation in Ukraine. Farmers and ranchers, truckers, and small business owners are struggling to keep their tractors, 18-wheelers, and other work vehicles full of diesel.

So in addition to having to fill up their own tanks, working families are paying for high fuel prices again at the checkout counter. One constituent in Johnson County in my State wrote to my office to lament that "rapidly increasing gas prices are making it difficult for everyday people like me to make ends meet." He said he is facing "rising costs" but "stagnant wages."

Another, in Ashland, described driving past a gas station on his way to work and seeing that prices had hit \$4.25 a gallon. He said he is "fortunate to be able to pay those prices" but worried "others would have to start giving up other things just to put gas in their car."

A third, in Brandenburg, was dismayed that the Biden administration decided to kill energy lease sales while gas prices are raging. He noted how "the timing and nature of this decision display a disturbing disregard" for the situation facing American families.

Since day one, from canceling Keystone XL to freezing leases for new exploration, President Biden himself has put American energy independence on the chopping block.

But while Americans suffer, the far left just digs in deeper. Just yesterday, for example, Secretary Granholm said the "volatility in prices" was just more reason to "accelerate" the supposedly green energy transition that Democrats have tried to force on the country, literally, for years.

Forget that their preferred energy sources aren't yet reliable or cost-effective. Forget that they would just be exchanging one kind of foreign dependence for new kinds of foreign dependence on Russian critical minerals and Chinese supply chains for solar panels and batteries. Democrats' proposals fall embarrassingly short.

I understand the House is wasting its time to pretend inflation is all the fault of evil corporate profiteers—evil corporate profiteers. I guess the profit motive hadn't been invented yet in 2019 when Republicans had unemployment low and inflation low at the very same time.

The liberal economist, Larry Summers, calls the House Democrats' bill—listen to this—"dangerous nonsense." "Dangerous nonsense." Bill Clinton's Secretary of the Treasury.

Jason Furman, another senior Obama adviser, has said the far-left claims about so-called "greed-flation" are, in fact, "unequivocally wrong and confused." Both Summers and Furman were part of the Obama administration.

The Biden administration has also drained our Strategic Petroleum Reserve to its lowest levels since 1987 in a frantic effort to lower prices. Predict-

ably, this gimmick failed, and now we are much less prepared for a possible future crisis.

You will recall that Senate Democrats gleefully blocked Republicans from refilling the Strategic Reserve to the top back in 2020 when oil was at rock-bottom prices. We tried to do that. These guys blocked it. We could have filled the Reserve to the top when crude was on a clearance sale, but Democrats blocked it and bragged about blocking it.

Washington Democrats keep finding new ways to fundamentally misunderstand America's energy needs.

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. DURBIN. 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.

TRIBUTE TO BRAD MIDDLETON

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, it was over a half century ago that Senator Robert Kennedy delivered one of the most important speeches of his life. It wasn't in the Capitol. It wasn't even in the United States. It was in South Africa during the darkest days of apartheid.

Senator Kennedy traveled to the University of Cape Town for the school's Day of Affirmation, a day to celebrate liberty and inclusivity. He told the students at that school that they had the power to change the world. He said:

Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts improve the lot for others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.

For the past 15 years, I have had as a member of my staff a man who knows a great deal about ripples of hope. His name is Brad Middleton. This week, he is moving on, leaving my office, sadly.

Over the years, Brad has worn many hats. For the last few years, he has been my top adviser on education. In that role, he has been my invaluable right hand in efforts to hold predatory for-profit colleges accountable.

He has done a phenomenal amount of work in making college affordable for millions of students, recently with the Affordable College Textbook Act. Soon, he is going to be taking his talents to President Biden's Department of Education, where he will continue his advocacy for students and their families. He will be a Senior Advisor for Strategy for the Department to investigate bad actors that cheat students, their families, and the taxpayers. It is quite the accomplishment for a rock star from Rock Falls, but I know Brad is going to handle it well.

He joined my office in 2006, a fresh-faced intern in Springfield. In the years

since, he has gone from answering the phones in our front office to counseling me on a wide range of serious policy questions. Before becoming my point person on education, he worked on my foreign policy team, and he helped pass the International Protecting Girls by Preventing Child Marriage Act. And he worked on the Judiciary team as well.

Every step of the way, Brad's been guided by faith, a passion for public service, and an unshakeable devotion to the people of my State. Brad comes from a long line of proud Illinoisans and public servants. His dad Jay is a corn seed salesman like his father before him. His mom Lori was a State court reporter who retired last August after 40 years of service to Lee County. Lori's commitment to public service made a mark on Brad. From the moment he could walk and talk, Brad expressed a desire to get involved and to serve.

His journey into politics started very young, in the first grade, when he was elected class president. Brad took his job very seriously, and he kept his ear to the ground on the issues facing the first grade in his day. While his friends were watching cartoons, Brad was sitting on the couch with his parents watching the news on the Gulf war and the election of President Clinton. That was the first Middleton administration.

The second Middleton administration was inaugurated in the halls of the famous school Knox College. As student senate president, Brad banned plastic trays from the dining hall, a defining policy in his sustainability platform even in those days.

Brad is remembered so fondly on the Knox College campus. Several years ago, I was invited to deliver the commencement address there, and I arrived with Brad accompanying me. When I arrived, it was clear that they were happy to see me; they were excited to see Brad.

Illinois has no stronger champion than Brad Middleton. Let me give you one example. About 10 years ago, Brad left Washington, at my request, to open up our new Rock Island, IL, office, about an hour west of his hometown Rock Falls. Brad took it upon himself to make sure the community that raised him had the best representation in Washington. He always took it personally to deliver for the people of Illinois.

For a while, it was just Brad leading the show in the Quad Cities as a solo act, with little more than a clipboard, folding chair, and a determination to get the office open and running. Now that office is a linchpin in our efforts to serve the people in the State and untangle the redtape of government.

It is one of the many "tiny ripples of hope" that Brad has sent forth over the years.

Here is one more. Back when Brad worked with my foreign policy team, he personally led the effort to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Dr. Muhammad Yunus, a Bangladeshi

economist and personal friend of mine who pioneered the concept of micro-lending. He was awarded the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize and is known as the "banker to the poor."

Leading up to the vote, the walls in Brad's office were covered in sticky notes, each one listing the name of a lawmaker who had yet to voice support for Dr. Yunus's medal. Brad meticulously reached out to staff of every one of those lawmakers. One by one, he won their support, and the bill passed both Chambers of Congress. Thanks to Brad, Dr. Yunus became the first Muslim to receive the Congressional Gold Medal.

Brad, from every Christmas tree you have carried into my office for the holiday season to every college student you helped find financial help, you have been an indispensable part of my team. You created those ripples of hope that continue to touch lives for years to come.

I hope you get well-deserved time off in the cabin in the Shenandoah area with your girlfriend Claire, your brother Ben, who also serves his community as a police officer in East Peoria, your sister-in-law Katie, and little Theodore and Rorie, your niece and nephew.

Be sure to kick back with the appropriate refreshment and a plate of piping hot fish because your next mission in public service begins immediately.

I am confident you will do well. Thank you to all you have given me and the people in my State.

NATO

Madam President, I had a visit yesterday from a group of parliamentarians from Lithuania.

Lithuania has a special place in my heart. It is where my mother was born, and I have been fortunate enough to visit there several times over the last 40 years. I saw Lithuania in its darkest days as part of the Soviet Union, and I watched their heroic struggle against the odds to win independence from the Soviet Union.

I have been there to see a free government installed again and to watch this amazing little country grow into a powerhouse, not just economically but culturally and spiritually. I say that because I believe that, time and again, Lithuania has stepped up to the international challenge.

It was my honor to work to bring NATO alliance status to the Baltics and certainly to Lithuania. It has made all the difference in the world. When I think of Vladimir Putin's unprovoked attacks on Ukraine, I can't help but believe that the Baltics would have fallen to Putin and his aggression long ago if he had his way. What held him back was not just the courage of the people who live there but the fact that they had many friends willing to stand behind them—members of the EU and certainly members of the NATO alliance.

Lithuania has taken their role in the alliance so seriously. They have pledged soldiers and military support,

time and again, when the NATO alliances picked a targeted strategy. They are always part of the answer and glad to be.

They have dedicated 2.5 percent on their annual budget to the military. I believe they rank third in the NATO ranks in percentage of budget that they are dedicating to the defense of the country. They may be small, but they are mighty.

Yesterday, the group who came to see me, led by the new Lithuania Ambassador, Audra Plepyte, including Lukas Savickas, deputy chairman of the Committee for the Future; Vydas Gedvilas, Deputy Speaker of Parliament; and Mr. Zygimantas Pavilionis, deputy chairman of the Committee on European Affairs.

We talked about the current situation in Ukraine. They feel it personally, but they also feel personally the aggression of Vladimir Putin. Not far from Lithuania is a part of Russia to the west of Lithuania known as Kaliningrad. Kaliningrad is a military fortress established by the Russians on the doorstep of Lithuania and Poland. It is a source of growing concern because of the armaments which we believe were placed there as a threat to the region.

That is why NATO has made special plans for the Baltics to reinforce a commitment—a commitment which includes German troops who are now helping out in Lithuania, Canadian troops in Latvia, and British troops in Estonia. That sort of commitment is one that needs to be reinforced.

I am going to ask that our government consider strengthening that commitment in the future or working on the details now. But the Baltics are a critical element in the region, not only in our friendship and our alliance but in the future.

I support the accession of Finland and Sweden to NATO. I hope that is agreed on at the NATO summit in Madrid in just a few weeks.

I believe that will help the Baltics as well to have that solid neighbor in Finland as part of the NATO alliance. It is interesting to note that what has happened since the invasion of Ukraine is exactly the opposite of what Vladimir Putin expected.

He thought Ukraine would be a pushover. It is far from that. The courage and bravery and resilience of those Ukrainian people have fought back the mighty Russian military machine time and time again. They were no pushover and they never will be, and the day will come when they have their peace and sovereignty restored from this aggression.

Secondly, I am sure Putin thought when this was all over, his dream of restoring the Russian empire would mean that they would be stronger than ever, but daily reports tell that the sanctions are taking their toll on the economy of Russia, and not just in the short term.

I was in Moscow. I remember the early days and the arrival of the first

McDonald's restaurant. It was in Soviet times, and it was an amazing event to think that this western corporation would locate a restaurant in Moscow in the middle of the Soviet Union, and they did.

I can remember the dreary, dark-gray scenes in Moscow interrupted and punctuated by those golden arches as a reminder that the West was going to show to the people of Moscow what was available under a free economic policy in a free society.

Sadly now, the McDonald's Corporation has made the right decision to pull out of Russia. Hundreds of restaurants will be closed as a result of it. It is an indication to the people of Russia that they have to make a choice about their future, do they want to go down the dark and perilous road with Vladimir Putin, or do they want to emerge as a 21st Century free country that is inspired by democracy and not by authoritarianism?

I thank my friends in Lithuania who time and again have stood by us, and we by them, and make sure that they continue to, whether it is making certain that the legitimate Presidential candidates in Belarus have safety and refuge in their country or making certain that they speak up for human rights in places around the world where others fear to tread.

They have done that time and again, and they will continue to. I am looking forward to returning to that country soon. I have been there many times, and I hope to be back soon.

Just this weekend, Sweden and Finland declared their intention to apply for rapid NATO membership. Who can blame them? At the Munich conference, I spoke with Finnish President Sauli Niinistö—what an amazing person. He enjoys an 80 or 90 percent approval rating, a dream of every politician, and they are talking about waiving the constitutional limitation on terms in office so he can serve another term.

He was an appellate lawyer, which doesn't sound like a very exciting lot in life, but when he became President, he really understood the people of Finland and has led them with wisdom and thoughtful leadership.

He has attempted to maintain a constructive relationship with Putin. If you read the history of Finland, you can understand how they managed to stay somewhat neutral during the Cold War when many countries couldn't even imagine that possibility, and, despite their proximity to the Soviet Union, they managed to pull it off. Their relationship with Putin, though, has been shaken, if not destroyed, when Putin decided to invade Ukraine. The Finnish President Niinistö said when he spoke to Putin on the telephone that he should "look in the mirror"—those were his exact words—if he wanted to know why Finland was now considering membership with the NATO alliance.

A few months ago when I spoke to former Lithuanian President Valdas

Adamkus, about his historic efforts to bring Lithuania into NATO in 2004, he talked to me about the courage it took for him and for President Vytautas Landsbergis—who I guess was the originator of the Sajudis movement that made such a difference in the pursuit of freedom and democracy in Lithuania. They knew the importance, both of them, Landsbergis and Adamkus, in solidly building their nation in that defensive alliance and never again running the risk that they would lose everything overnight to the onslaught of Soviet and Russian aggression.

Is it any wonder that these small but mighty Baltic States are some of the most vocal in defending democracy in Ukraine? They have lived it. They have been under the shadow of Russia and the Soviet Union for so many years and now finally stand proudly with their own sovereignty and their own human rights' record.

So I applaud Sweden and Finland's decision and hope we can approve their entry into NATO with haste.

H.R. 7691

Mr. President, here in the Senate we have another immediate need as well: to pass this supplemental funding package for Ukraine. It is embarrassing to say that we had to wait a full calendar week in the midst of a bloody war where innocent people are dying and a nation has been driven and reduced to rubble to sit here for a political purpose and wait for this week for the approval of U.S. aid to Ukraine. It should have happened immediately last week. No excuses.

I applaud the House of Representatives for taking quick and decisive action. This bill shouldn't be delayed in the Senate any longer. It is time for us to stand up once and for all and make it clear we are standing by Ukraine and the defense of democracy.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MURPHY). The Senator from South Dakota.

ELLSWORTH AIR FORCE BASE

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, this Saturday will be Armed Forces Day, a day set aside to honor the members of the U.S. military.

I first came to know the military through my dad Harold, a fighter pilot who flew Hellcats off of the deck of the USS *Intrepid* during World War II. From him, I learned the patriotism and selflessness and humility that characterized the "greatest generation" and that continue to characterize our military members today.

As a Member of Congress, I have come to know our military through the men and women of the South Dakota Army and Air National Guard and through the airmen of Ellsworth Air Force Base.

As I have said before, I may be biased, but I am convinced that South Dakota has the most outstanding Guard troops in the entire Nation. As usual, they have been busy over the past year.

On Saturday, the National Guard welcomed home guardsmen from a de-

ployment in Djibouti, where our Guard has had a heavy rotation to support operations in the Horn of Africa, and honored Guard members who were headed to deployment in Europe. Guard members helped with the response to last week's severe storms in South Dakota. They deployed to the border to reinforce an overstretched Border Patrol. They deployed to Guantanamo Bay. The 114th Fighter Wing at Joe Foss Field completed a Noble Eagle deployment across the country to hone their alert mission. Just a few weeks ago, 30 National Guard members traveled to Suriname, where they trained military personnel and provided support to local communities. And the list goes on.

South Dakota National Guard members play an essential role in military and humanitarian operations both here at home and abroad, and I am tremendously grateful for their service.

My acquaintance with Ellsworth Air Force Base began during my time in the House of Representatives, but I really got to know the base shortly after I became a Senator.

Just a few months into my first term in the Senate, Ellsworth found itself targeted for closure by the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission, and the South Dakota congressional delegation and State and community leaders immediately mobilized to defend the base. I am pretty sure I attended every single BRAC hearing in DC that summer, whether Ellsworth was on the agenda or not. I just wanted to make sure that I was there in case the chance to advocate for Ellsworth arose.

Many thought that South Dakota might not have the clout to make this stand, that we didn't wield enough influence. We were only given about 12 percent odds of pulling through. But we were determined that we weren't going to lose Ellsworth, and in August, we succeeded in having Ellsworth removed from the closure list.

But we didn't stop there. We got right to work on building up the base so that we would never again find ourselves in the same position. In 2007, we saw the Air Force Financial Services Center open at Ellsworth, and 2011 saw the arrival of the 89th Attack Squadron and its command and control stations for MQ-9 Reapers.

In 2015, a decades-long effort paid off with the expansion of the training airspace for the base. The Powder River Training Complex is now the largest training airspace in the continental United States. It is undoubtedly partly thanks to this airspace that Ellsworth received the news last June that we had officially been named Main Operating Base 1 for the future B-21 bomber—"Home of the Raider."

This designation not only means that Ellsworth will be the first base to host the B-21 Raider but that it will also host the formal training unit and the first operational squadron. Once operational, the B-21 Raider will be a critical part of our Nation's long-range

strike capabilities and nuclear deterrence well into the future.

I am incredibly proud South Dakota and Ellsworth were chosen to serve as the first base for the B-21s. My focus now is on ensuring that Ellsworth gets everything it needs for that new mission so that it can continue to serve as one of our Nation's most essential military assets for decades to come.

To that end, I worked to ensure that last year's National Defense Authorization Act contained not only full funding for B-21 development but full funding for the first of many equipment support facilities that will be needed for the B-21 mission at Ellsworth, including a low observable coating restoration facility, a wash rack and maintenance hangar, an expanded flight simulator facility, and more. Ellsworth is well on its way to becoming "Raider Country."

There is more new construction on the way. Currently, I am working to secure additional funding for the low observable coating restoration facility as well as funding for two additional construction projects—a weapons generation facility and a radio frequency facility. Both will be needed to ensure that Ellsworth is able to fully conduct the nuclear and stealth B-21 missions.

I am also working to ensure that the Air Force is able to invest in unmanned systems to complement the mission of the B-21. And I continue to work to enhance the Powder River Training Complex.

I intend to introduce a measure for this year's National Defense Authorization Act to establish a pilot program that would develop "dynamic airspace," the more efficient scheduling of airspace and airspace boundaries that evolve as exercises or other flights progress.

I believe dynamic airspace will better enable the Pentagon to meet training requirements for fifth-generation aircraft like the B-21, which need larger volumes of airspace to accommodate longer engagement distances. However, dynamic airspace should benefit all users of the National Airspace System, from commercial planes and general aviation to unmanned aircraft systems and space launches.

I look forward to working with the leaders of the Armed Services and Commerce Committees to advance this proposal.

I am also focused on ensuring that Ellsworth has the resources it needs to take care of our military families, particularly as more families move into the area with the impending arrival of the B-21 mission. That includes making sure that ample housing is available and that Douglas School District is able to support Air Force members' children and provide sufficient classroom space.

These are critical—critical—quality-of-life issues for our military men and women, matters that heavily influence whether they want to stay in the service or move to the private sector,

where many of their skills are in high demand.

I am committed to ensuring that our military families are able to thrive at Ellsworth.

Finally, as always, I continue to focus on making sure that our B-1s have the resources they need. We still have a ways to go before our B-1s are fully replaced by the B-21, and I am committed to ensuring that our B-1s remain a responsive and lethal component of Global Strike Command until their mission is over.

On Armed Forces Day and every day, I am more grateful than I can say for our Ellsworth airmen, our South Dakota Army and Air National Guard, and all the men and women of the U.S. military. It is because of them that we live in peace and safety, and the freedom we enjoy is secured by their sacrifice.

May God bless all our military men and women and keep them safe as they stand on watch for us.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOKER). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

H.R. 7691

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, in just a few moments, the Senate is going to pass H.R. 7691. It is an emergency supplemental to provide funding to Ukraine and to stem the global hunger crisis exacerbated by Vladimir Putin's unprovoked war.

It is something, of course, that has been followed very closely in the Senate Appropriations Committee, and I am strongly in favor of this bill as chair of that committee. It is a shame that, because of the actions of one Senator, we could not pass this urgently needed bill, which is going to receive overwhelming bipartisan support, last week. To confront Vladimir Putin on the global stage, we have to stand united.

Later tonight, I am going to be leading a delegation to Brussels. Tomorrow, we will receive an update from NATO Secretary General Stoltenberg on Ukraine and why the new resources provided in this bill are urgently needed. It will be a bipartisan delegation I am leading, and I am going to be proud to tell the NATO Secretary General that we came together in the U.S. Senate and the House to pass this appropriation.

The bill provides \$40.1 billion in critical military and humanitarian assistance for Ukraine to help defend Ukraine's sovereignty and democracy abroad and address the rising global hunger crisis. This includes \$8.5 billion in additional Presidential drawdown authority for critical weapons transfers, \$8.5 billion for the Economic Sup-

port Fund to respond to emerging needs in Ukraine, and over \$5 billion for global food aid, for which the distinguished Presiding Officer has argued for some time.

As chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee and, proudly, as President pro tempore of this body, I strongly support its passage.

With that said, it is frustrating once again that we have failed to provide the needed funding to address the ongoing COVID pandemic. Public health experts warn us every day that the virus is not done with us; a new wave of cases is expected to crash over our country in the fall. For months, the administration has warned that we do not have the necessary vaccines, therapeutics, tests, and other resources to stay ahead of this virus.

Today, countries around the world are already placing orders for the next generation of vaccines, and they are going to be better suited to the variants we face now but also to the variants we will face in the future. The United States is not one of those countries, and without the necessary resources, we are going to fall farther back in line, and more Americans will die needlessly. We will also run out of needed funds for testing and therapeutics before the next wave.

After more than 2 years and 1 million American lives lost to this disease, time and again, we have been caught flatfooted because we have refused to prepare for the worst. As chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I will continue to fight for these urgently needed resources in the coming weeks, and I hope both Republicans and Democrats will join me on that.

It is for the good of the American people, the people we represent. If you get COVID and are hospitalized or get one of the variants and face possible death, nobody cares whether you are a Republican or a Democrat; you are an American, and we should be doing what we can to protect you.

The people of Ukraine and the millions facing acute food insecurity require the funds in this bill today. I strongly urge the Senate to pass it without further delay.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The majority leader is recognized.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the vote be delayed for a little bit—10 minutes—so I can give my opening remarks and so the Senator from Hawaii and I can do a quick UC.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

H.R. 7691

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, today, the U.S. Senate will keep its promise to stand with the people of Ukraine. In a few moments, we will begin voting to finally pass \$40 billion in military, economic, and humanitarian aid that President Biden has called on Congress to approve. This is a large package, and it will meet the large needs of the Ukrainian people as they fight for their survival.

As President Zelenskyy has said, the Ukrainians are caught up in a fight for democracy—the very democracy we love—itself. It is a fight we should not and cannot turn away from.

By passing this emergency aid, the Senate can now say to the Ukrainian people: Help is on the way—real help, significant help, help that could make sure that the Ukrainians are victorious.

Help is on the way in the form of Javelins and Stingers and howitzers and other tools that are critical for victory on the battlefield.

Help is on the way in the form of food and shelter and supplies for the 6 million Ukrainians who fled to neighboring nations because of the brutal, brutal, nasty, horrible bombardment by Putin, who I believe is a war criminal.

Help is on the way in the form of economic aid and food aid and the assistance necessary to rebuild what Putin and Russia have sought to tear down but never can. They can't tear down the hearts, the minds, and the strength of the Ukrainian people.

Now, given how important this is, I wish I could say this vote will be totally unanimous. Every single Democrat in the House voted for this emergency aid package for Ukraine, and every single Democrat in this Chamber, the Senate, is ready to support the Ukrainians as they defend their young democracy, but unfortunately, once again, with MAGA Republicans, who seem to be way out of line in so many ways, the story is different on the Republican side.

While most Senators in both parties want this package done, it is beyond troubling to see a growing circle of Senate Republicans proudly opposing Ukrainian funding. Two days ago, 11 Republicans voted against merely debating this legislation. It appears more and more MAGA Republicans are on the same “soft on Putin” playbook that we saw used by former President Trump. We all knew how President Trump reacted to Putin. Sometimes it was flattery. Sometimes it was just fear—he was fearful—but he always seemed to go along and bow down to Putin. Now we have seen Putin's brutality, and we have seen how wrong Trump was, but these 11 MAGA Republicans voted against even debating.

Around the world, our enemies are watching what we do right now. What do you think they are going to conclude if they start seeing more and

more U.S. Senators oppose aid to democracies under attack by authoritarianism? Our adversaries might conclude that we are divided, that America is divided. They might conclude that we lack purpose. The MAGA influence on the Republican Party is becoming all too large and all too dominant.

We Americans—all of us, Democratic and Republican—cannot afford to stick our heads in the sand while Vladimir Putin continues his vicious belligerence against the Ukrainian people, while he fires at civilian hospitals and targets and kills children and innocent people. But when Republicans, in a significant number, oppose this package, that is precisely the signal we are sending to enemies abroad.

Still, I am glad that, for the most part, this Chamber is united in supporting Ukraine; and I am also glad, Mr. President, that yesterday, on the same day that American diplomats and marines raised Stars and Stripes over the American Embassy in Kyiv, this Chamber unanimously voted Bridget Brink as the U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine. It is the first time we have an ambassador to Ukraine since 2019, and her confirmation is terrific news that comes at a critical moment for both our countries.

NATO

Mr. President, finally, later today, Leader McCONNELL and I will host a bipartisan meeting with the leaders of Finland and Sweden. Their application to NATO will soon come before this Chamber. And just as we quickly worked to confirm Ambassador Brink, I hope we will be able to act swiftly and in a bipartisan way on the resolution admitting these nations into the ranks of the NATO alliance.

SMALL BUSINESS COVID RELIEF ACT OF 2022

Mr. President, now on another matter—restaurants—later today, the Senate is going to vote to move forward to give America's restaurants, local gyms, minor league teams, and other small businesses a much needed lifeline to get back on their feet after 2 years of pandemic. I thank Senators CARDIN and WICKER for their efforts on today's legislation.

Every single component of this bill was drafted with bipartisan input. The benefits would help businesses in every single State in America, particularly those left out of earlier rounds of emergency funding. We should be leaping into action—leaping into action—to help these places get back on their feet in times of recovery.

Restaurants, gyms, teams, and small venues are all in the business of providing for their communities. Today we should be in the business of providing for them. Some say that 2 years after the start of COVID, our restaurants don't need as much help as they once did. They think that because lockdowns are over, because people seem to be out and about again, it must mean things are going great for small businesses.

That is dead wrong for too many of our businesses, especially small, family-owned places. Many can't stay open a full day because they are short of labor, don't serve lunch, close Monday and Tuesday, don't have people at the bar. So they can't get their full income. And at the same time, many of these undertook big loans when they were closed during COVID.

Those big loans are coming due. To have banks foreclose on these ongoing businesses that are growing once again, that are employing people once again would be a huge mistake. This bill is a lifeline to prevent that from happening and keep jobs coming in and keep prosperity coming in.

So that is true for restaurants; it is true for other businesses; and we must pass this legislation to keep these vital parts of America's economy and America's social and community life going. When minor league teams close, entire towns have fewer options for coming together. When theaters can't open because businesses they rely on close down, it disintegrates the fabric of our communities. Restaurants, gyms, sports venues, theaters—these are places where Americans have always come together, and they still need our help.

I urge all of us who have heard from small business owners imploring us to take action to support moving forward on today's bill, and, once again, I thank my colleagues CARDIN and WICKER for their work.

DOMESTIC TERRORISM

Mr. President, now on domestic terrorism, my home State of New York, as everyone knows, is still grieving from the horrendous violence that took place in Buffalo Saturday. The people I met in Buffalo on Tuesday are with me almost every moment: the families, the survivors, the community. It was the worst shooting in Buffalo's history. Ten innocent people were killed, all of them Black Americans.

What happened in Buffalo was clearly a result of domestic terrorism—terrorism fed from the madness of conspiracy theories like “White replacement theory,” which is increasingly finding a home with MAGA Republicans and cable networks like FOX News. Yesterday, I announced that the Senate will move forward on legislation championed by Senator DURBIN to fight back against the rise of domestic terrorism in America.

In the light of the shooting in Buffalo, in the light of the rise of racist conspiracies like the “great replacement,” we—all of us—have an obligation to protect Americans by treating these incidents of violence like the terrorist acts they are. I hope that, given everything that is happening across the country right now, our Republicans will join us to pass this bill swiftly.

Taking a stand against White supremacy and domestic terrorism should be the easiest thing in the world. When any single community is targeted by racism, it affects every one of us.

So we are going to take action next week on domestic terrorism legislation, and I hope both sides send an unmistakable message against the ascension of White supremacy that threatens the fabric of this Nation.

BABY FORMULA

Mr. President, one final note on baby formula, yesterday, President Biden invoked the Defense Production Act to respond to the shortage of baby formula that is hurting parents and caretakers of newborns across the country. The President is taking the issue seriously. Invoking the DPA was exactly the right response.

I cannot imagine how hard the shortage is for families who have been impacted. There is already such a burden on a mother of a newborn child; we can't let this formula shortage be another stressor for mothers in this country.

The Senate should likewise take action to help our Nation's parents. Yesterday, the House passed a pair of bills to address the baby formula shortage—including one with over 400 votes—that will make sure that parents who rely on the Federal nutrition programs can continue to access baby formula in the face of supply chain shortages. I hope the Senate will pass both of these bills.

Here in the Senate, Senator STABENOW and Senator BOOZMAN are championing nearly identical legislation to the bipartisan WIC bill that overwhelmingly passed the House. I hope the Senate can consider this bill immediately and send it to the President so we can send swift and tangible assistance to working parents feeling the brunt of this shortage.

COMMISSION TO STUDY THE POTENTIAL CREATION OF A NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE ACT

Mr. President, on one additional very happy note, today, my colleague Senator HIRONO, in a few minutes, will ask consent to pass important legislation to create a congressional Commission on the creation of the first national Asian-American history and culture museum right here in the Nation's Capitol.

I am elated and thrilled to support bringing to the floor and voting for this long-overdue step that will help establish one of the greatest museums dedicated solely to telling the story of Asian Americans throughout history. It is a story that is long overdue.

Asian Americans, from the country's founding, have played a giant role in shaping our country. Much of that history is unknown. And we see the growing and vibrant Asian community, from so many parts of the world—from the Middle East, from South Asia, from East Asia, from Southeast Asia, and everywhere else—all coming to America and working hard and growing families and establishing businesses and making America great.

With all the bigotry that we have seen and the increase in violence now on Asian Americans, we have to rebut that nasty view that some people have.

And forming a museum that will show the greatness of this community—past, present, and future—will be so important because, from the beginning of our founding, Asian Americans have played a great role in shaping the country.

Too much of the history is unknown. Students never even come across these stories and lessons in school. That is disappointing. But it is also why this Asian-American history and culture museum is so important. An Asian-American history and culture museum would celebrate the achievements with all Americans and all the world and exalt our wonderful, growing, strong, beautiful Asian-American community.

I thank Senator HIRONO for her work and yield the floor to her.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak up to 5 minutes.

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

COMMISSION TO STUDY THE POTENTIAL CREATION OF A NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE ACT

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I thank the majority leader for his words and his very strong support of the Asian-American Pacific Islander community and his support for this bill that I am calling forth today.

As we celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, we have an opportunity to pass meaningful legislation to establish a Commission to study the creation of a National Museum of Asian Pacific American History and Culture.

This bill is straightforward. It establishes an eight-person Commission, appointed equally by House and Senate majority and minority leadership. The Commission will be composed of individuals with expertise in the research, study, and promotion of Asian-American Pacific Islander history.

This Commission will submit a report to Congress, at which point we should act. Asian and Pacific Islander American communities have made significant contributions to American life, but despite these undeniable contributions, our communities have largely been excluded or erased from American history. If not invisible, API groups are often pejoratively depicted as foreigners, always "the other," instead of people who have lived in and positively contributed to this country for generations.

These narratives have fueled xenophobia and racism, contributing to decades of racism, racist laws, and discrimination—and, of course, most recently led to the rise in attacks in hate-related incidents against members of our communities.

A National Museum of Asian Pacific American History and Culture would help combat these harmful narratives

by sharing API history on an unprecedented scale, and we should consider whether or not such a museum should be feasible.

With this bill, we can demonstrate our commitment to showcasing the significant contributions of the API community to our country's fabric. I think it is really important for our country to better understand how the Chinese Exclusion Act, Executive Order No. 9066, which led to the incarceration of 120,000 Japanese Americans during World War II and decades of racial laws, contribute to the API experience today.

The establishment of this kind of museum should not be controversial, and it has been done before with regard to the National Museum of African American History and Culture, the National Museum of the American the Latino. These museums represent progress. They help us better understand one another and our shared history as Americans.

Now we have a chance to build on this progress by creating a Commission to study a similar museum to highlight the history and legacy of the API individuals and communities in this country, and, of course, this bill represents a significant step toward an America that celebrates and encourages the rich diversity of our people.

With that, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3525 and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3525) to establish the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Museum of Asian Pacific American History and Culture, and for other purposes.

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

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (H.R. 3525) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

BLACKWELL SCHOOL NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE ACT

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 300, S. 2490.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2490) to establish the Blackwell School National Historic Site in Marfa, Texas, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which