

In the meantime, let's pass this bill. Let's give veterans the healthcare they have earned. If it isn't, it is political malpractice. What we are doing today with this policy, by putting this policy off, does nobody any good whatsoever. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, I would briefly and simply reiterate my request that our Democratic colleagues, including the chairman, who obviously is passionate about this, just engage with us to fix this, this problem that has nothing to do with the bill that he wants to pass, this problem that wasn't in the House version of this bill.

The chairman's argument that, well, it is always ultimately subject to appropriations—well, that is really an argument that says let's not have a budget at all, let's not have any rules because—it is true—a future Congress can always do whatever it wants. So, by that logic, we should have no rules, no guidelines, no budgets, no procedures, no pay-go, no effort whatsoever to have any management of our Federal budget because—what the hell—any Congress can come along and just waive it.

I don't agree with that. I think, especially at a time when inflation is running rampant, when we have been spending money like no one has ever imagined—if we have got an important need, OK; we do that. But this gimmick—and the chairman said people are sick and tired of games. I totally agree. This is one of those games where you have got a bill that is going to pass and so let's sneak in this change in the budget rule so that it will be easy to spend money on other things in the future.

That is ridiculous. That is just not defensible. So, again, I would stress there is a very easy path to a very big vote in favor of this bill that probably could happen later tonight but could certainly happen tomorrow. And if the path is there, let's fix this problem.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I am going to reiterate what I said before. The concern that the Senator from Pennsylvania has is a concern that there is not a lot of trust in this body, and I agree—fair reason to be.

As far as having rules, I believe in having rules, but I don't believe we should have rules that tie the hands of our standing committees, that say: You can't do this. Appropriations, I don't care what you see, what you see, what issue comes down the road for veterans—in this case, MARTIN HEINRICH, the chair, and JOHN BOOZMAN, the ranking member—you guys can't address it.

That is what the Senator from Pennsylvania wants to do. That is not how this process should work. We should be dealing with issues as they arise. That is a fact.

And by the way, I have said for some time, programs that have outlived their lifespan, we should be cutting those programs, but we don't do that very well.

But we have been at war for 20 years. With that war—by the way, that was all put on a credit card—there was a fair amount that was funded by an OCO account. And now we are going to say: Oh, no, no, no, no, no, no; we are not going to spend the money to take care of our veterans. I am going to use this as an excuse. I am going to use as an excuse the fact that the Appropriations Committee might spend too much money.

Well, that is on us. And while that is on us, we have veterans dying of cancers and lung conditions because a bill that should have been passed before the Fourth of July is still on the floor today.

You can frame it any way you want. But in the end, this budgetary gimmick is called: How the Congress Works. Appropriators appropriate. If you don't believe me, ask Senator SHELBY. That is what we do. And if we appropriate too much, this body votes it down. Or if we don't appropriate enough, this body votes it down and amends it up. That is what appropriators do. That is how this process is supposed to work.

We should not be using that excuse to deny benefits to the men and women who have served this country in a God-awful place in the Middle East.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WARNOCK). The Senator from Georgia is recognized.

SENATOR JOHNNY ISAKSON VA REGIONAL OFFICE ACT OF 2022

Mr. OSSOFF. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize a giant of the great State of Georgia—which the Presiding Officer and I both have the distinct honor of serving—to recognize a true legend of the U.S. Senate, an extraordinary father, husband, and representative of our State, the late Senator Johnny Isakson.

Senator Isakson served Georgia all his life. Born in Atlanta, Senator Isakson attended the University of Georgia, then enlisted in the Georgia Air National Guard. He was a successful private businessman, growing his real estate enterprise to one of the largest in the State.

He served in both the Georgia House of Representatives and the State senate, and Governor Zell Miller, a Democrat, appointed him, a Republican, to chair the State Board of Education.

In 1999, Senator Isakson was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, where he worked to improve American K-12 education.

And in 2004, he was elected to this body, where he would serve for almost 15 years with courtesy, dignity, and kindness, supporting and championing bipartisan efforts to better serve our

Nation's veterans. And his service culminated in his chairmanship of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs and of the Senate Ethics Committee.

As we will hear from our distinguished colleagues who served alongside Senator Isakson—like Senator BLUNT—Senator Isakson, through his uncommon decency, his generosity of spirit, his commitment to integrity and service of others over service of self, won universal respect in this body; won respect in the State of Georgia that crossed party lines and earned the reputation not just nationally but around the world for statesmanship, effectiveness, and hard work.

Even more than his work as a statesman, Senator Isakson was a father and a husband. And I want to recognize Senator Isakson's extraordinary family, including his wife of more than 50 years, Dianne; his sons, John and Kevin; his daughter Julie—all of whom I have had the pleasure of speaking or corresponding with in recent months and all of whom, in their lives, carry on the Senator's legacy.

Senator Isakson had a saying that there are just two kinds of people in this world: friends and future friends. I hope we can all be inspired by that aspiration and that outlook, by his resilient desire to see the good in everyone; to see the opportunity to work with anyone; to try to find where our interests align, where we can meet eye to eye, where we can get things done together.

Senator Isakson's courtesy, collegiality, and integrity will forever serve as an example to all of us who serve in this body today and in the future. And that is why, in recognition of Senator Isakson's tremendous contributions to American veterans, to the State of Georgia, and to the United States, it has been my privilege to introduce—alongside my distinguished Republican colleague from Missouri, Senator BLUNT, and the Presiding Officer, Senator WARNOCK—the Senator Johnny Isakson VA Regional Office Act to rename the VA's Atlanta Regional Office after Senator Isakson as part of our Nation's ongoing recognition of his service and as an example to those who follow in his footsteps of the virtues that his representation embodied.

I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their support of this legislation. We will hear from Senator BLUNT and Senator WARNOCK, to share their experiences working alongside and knowing Senator Isakson, in just a moment.

But now, let's get this done and take this action to demonstrate our enduring respect and admiration for this extraordinary American statesman, Johnny Isakson. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 4359 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4359) to designate the regional office of the Department of Veterans Affairs in metropolitan Atlanta as the "Senator Johnny Isakson Department of Veterans Affairs Atlanta Regional Office", and for other purposes.

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

Mr. OSSOFF. Mr. President, I further ask that the bill be considered read a third time and passed 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 bill (S. 4359) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 4359

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Senator Johnny Isakson VA Regional Office Act of 2022".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) John Hardy Isakson, known as "Johnny", was born December 28, 1944, in Atlanta, Georgia, to Julia Isakson and Edwin Andrew Isakson.

(2) Johnny Isakson graduated from the University of Georgia in 1966 with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration.

(3) In 1966, Johnny Isakson enlisted in the Georgia Air National Guard, serving until 1972 and attaining the rank of Staff Sergeant.

(4) Johnny Isakson gained success in private business, serving for 22 years as a real estate executive and growing his business into one of the largest of its kind in both Georgia and in the United States.

(5) Johnny Isakson was elected to the Georgia General Assembly in 1976, serving in the State House of Representatives until 1990.

(6) Johnny Isakson was elected to the Georgia State Senate in 1992, serving until 1996.

(7) In 1996, Governor Zell Miller appointed Johnny Isakson to be Chairman of the Georgia State Board of Education.

(8) Johnny Isakson was elected to represent the 6th District of Georgia in the United States House of Representatives in 1999, and served until 2005.

(9) During his time in the House of Representatives, Johnny Isakson, as a member of the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives, worked to improve American education, and was a key advocate for the bipartisan education reforms that became the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (Public Law 107-110).

(10) Johnny Isakson was elected to the United States Senate in 2004, serving until December 31, 2019.

(11) During his time in the Senate, Johnny Isakson was an exemplar of courtesy, dignity, and kindness, beloved and respected by colleagues regardless of party.

(12) Johnny Isakson, during the 111th Congress, demonstrated a bipartisan yearning for peace, and crossed party lines to support the ratification of the 2010 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty between the United States and the Russian Federation, also known as New START.

(13) During the 114th, 115th, and 116th Congresses, Johnny Isakson served as Chairman of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate, a position with which he tirelessly championed reform to improve the benefits and quality of service for our nation's military veterans.

(14) During the 114th, 115th, and 116th Congresses, Johnny Isakson served as Chairman of the Select Committee on Ethics of the Senate.

(15) The late Congressman John Lewis once described Johnny Isakson as "A man who has strong belief but also willing to work with others to get things done."

(16) On December 19, 2021, Johnny Isakson passed away, but his legacy of character and goodwill will endure as an example to all who serve, or will serve, in the United States Senate.

SEC. 3. SENATOR JOHNNY ISAKSON DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS ATLANTA REGIONAL OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The Department of Veterans Affairs Atlanta Regional Office in Georgia shall, after the date of the enactment of this Act, be known and designated as the "Senator Johnny Isakson Department of Veterans Affairs Atlanta Regional Office" or the "Isakson VA Atlanta Regional Office".

(b) REFERENCE.—Any reference in a law, regulation, map, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Regional Office referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the Senator Johnny Isakson Department of Veterans Affairs Atlanta Regional Office.

Mr. OSSOFF. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I am glad to join you and the other Senator from Georgia, Mr. OSSOFF, here today and join both of you in sharing some thoughts about Senator Isakson.

Senator OSSOFF has already said a lot of things that are easily said. Not that they were easy for him to say, but anybody that knew Johnny Isakson would make many of those very same points and, hopefully, make them as well. I was glad to join him as the original cosponsor of this bill.

Johnny and I served together in the House from 1999 until 2005. I was the majority whip during most of that time. And he was one of the half dozen deputies that really are key to getting things done. And Johnny Isakson liked to get things done.

In 2005, he came over here to be in the Senate and brought that same determination to get things done, to find the place—wherever that place was—where something could happen. And he was a master at making things happen.

When I joined him in the Senate in 2011, I was pleased to get a chance to serve alongside him again. He was a fast friend and a friend that you could count on. He knew how to bring people together. He did view, as Senator OSSOFF said, people as his current friends or people who—the only reason they weren't his friend is they hadn't become his friends yet. And that is quite a way to approach life. And Johnny did it really well. I don't think there was anyone more respected by the other Members of the Senate than Senator Isakson was.

In September of last year, I had the opportunity to join you, Mr. President, along with Senator COONS and Senator GRAHAM, in hosting a bipartisan lunch that Johnny first started 13 years ago. I think we are going to do that again in September of this year. We have Democratic lunches, and we have Republican lunches. The Johnny Isakson lunch every year was the bipartisan lunch. And I think that is a great tradition to at least one more time do in honor of his service here and his friendship.

He understood the value of sitting down over a cup of coffee or over a meal, of talking to one another, of finding the things you agree on, and then working together.

And one thing I found here—and I think one of the ways I found it was watching what Johnny did—when a Democratic and Republican Senator find something to do together and get it done, invariably, they start looking for the next thing to do together. And their staffs start looking for the next thing their bosses can do together. And it is an infectious kind of thing that gets things done. And that was one of the great understandings of the legislative process that Johnny brought to the Senate.

I think when Johnny was in the Georgia House, there were a handful of Republicans in the Georgia House when he got there. He told me he got to be minority leader pretty quickly—maybe it was because he didn't show up in the room that day before they could choose who their leader was going to be. But he understood what it took to bring things together. He liked to help people. He liked to get things done. He especially liked to get things done for his fellow veterans.

Now, we are going to approach this veterans issue this week. And I am sure we are going to get it done. We just had a discussion about veterans and our commitments to veterans. But as chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, Johnny really led efforts particularly to increase accountability at the VA. And there was an accountability problem at the VA that Johnny was intent on making sure we got to the bottom of it, to be sure that veterans received the care that they were entitled to and the benefits they had earned.

Under his leadership, Congress also passed a MISSION Act, legislation that gave veterans real and permanent choice in their healthcare. This is something that particularly younger veterans care about. They want to go to the doctor that they want to go to. They want to go to a doctor close to home, or they want to still have the option, as they would have, to go to a veterans facility or be referred from that facility to another place where their care would be more easily available to them.

But what veterans really want was the idea of having not just a pilot project on choice, which was the case

before Johnny Isakson as chairman decided, no, we are going to have a permanent process where veterans are going to have those choices in the future. And so here we have just passed legislation designed to designate the VA facility in Decatur, GA, the Senator Johnny Isakson Department of Veterans Affairs Atlanta Regional Office.

I am certainly proud to join my colleagues today as we sought and received unanimous consent for this legislation to pass. I really can't think of a more fitting way today, as we talk about veterans, to honor Johnny's legacy than to have his name associated with an issue he cared deeply about.

Another issue he and I cared about and worked closely on was health research and what was happening at the CDC. There will be a building—the ground is being broken right now, as I understand it, for a building—at the CDC headquarters in Atlanta that will also be named for Johnny Isakson.

Those are two very fitting areas of focus for what he did for the people in Georgia, what he did for veterans in Georgia, what he did for healthcare in Georgia, and what he did for all of those things as it related to the entire U.S.A. I am glad to see this legislation pass.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. OSSOFF). The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. WARNOCK. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to honor a friend, our late Senator from Georgia, my predecessor, Senator Johnny Isakson, as we work across the aisle, just as he did, to rename the Department of Veterans Affairs Atlanta Regional Office in his honor.

I thank my brother and fellow Senator from Georgia for leading this effort.

Without a doubt, Senator Isakson loved Georgia, and he cared deeply for our country. He was a patriot, a public servant, and I am proud to say that there are members of my staff who used to work for Johnny Isakson. They will tell you that he never hesitated to show up.

In my other job as a pastor, I talk often about the ministry of presence. Sometimes, it is not about what you say, because there are some situations, quite frankly, for which there are no adequate words. When someone has lost a loved one, and you are standing there at graveside or standing in a hospital at bedside with a patient, sometimes the issue is really showing up—the ministry of presence.

Johnny Isakson had it. He knew how to show up. Whether it was paying a visit to an ill patient or seeing a disabled veteran, he was there. Senator Isakson, the consummate public servant, dedicated his years of service to our beloved Georgia, to veterans, to our families, and to our children.

He always made it a point to show up at Ebenezer Baptist Church. Every year in January, as we celebrate Georgia's greatest son, the Reverend Dr.

Martin Luther King, Jr., Johnny Isakson, without fail, was always in the house. Now, to be sure, when the King holiday rolls around, politicians do tend to show up, but what was so impressive about Johnny Isakson is that, not only did he show up for the service, he stayed for the whole service—a service which, I will admit, is long, even by Baptist standards. He stayed there the whole time.

He was unafraid to work across ideological and political differences in our State, in our country. I shall never forget his example of public service.

We talked from time to time. In fact, it occurs to me that the first time I stood in this Chamber, I stood not as a Senator but as Chaplain of the day, and it was at Johnny Isakson's invitation. I remember his graciousness on that day and on so many occasions.

When he announced his retirement, he called me and said: Raphael, I am retiring, and I want to drop by Ebenezer and say goodbye.

When he came that Sunday, he asked the members of our church who are veterans to stand. As he looked across the audience and saw all the veterans who were in our church, he said: I want to leave a special offering for the veterans ministry in this church.

That was Johnny Isakson.

So I am thrilled that today, with great appreciation and admiration for Senator Johnny Isakson, our bipartisan legislation honors his life and his legacy by renaming the Department of Veterans Affairs Atlanta Regional Office in his honor, and I am thrilled that it has passed in the Senate in a bipartisan way with unanimous support.

Isn't that fitting? Johnny Isakson is doing now in death what he did in life—bringing us together. And in this moment in which we are in a debate about what to do for our veterans, isn't it appropriate that his spirit summons us to common ground—and the higher ground—so that we can do all we can for those who have our back in dangerous places all over the globe.

Senator Isakson cared deeply for Georgia's veterans and for veterans all across our country. He understood that there are some things bigger than politics. So we recognize his amazing service, his incredible legacy of life and self-sacrifice by renaming the Atlanta Regional Office of the Department of Veterans Affairs in his honor.

I am proud to sit in the seat where he sat, and it is my honor to help lead the passage of this bipartisan piece of legislation that will help preserve the legacy of our late and dear friend.

Long live the spirit of Johnny Isakson.

HARRIET TUBMAN BICENTENNIAL COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate having received H.R. 1842 the text of which is identical to S. 697, the bill is consid-

ered to have been read a third time and the question occurs on the passage of the bill.

The bill was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (H.R. 1842) was passed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table.

GREATEST GENERATION COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate having received H.R. 1057 the text of which is identical to S. 1569, the bill is considered read a third time and the questions occur on passage of the bill.

The bill was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (H.R. 1057) was passed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table.

The Senator from Arizona.

CALLING ON THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO DESIGNATE THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AS A STATE SPONSOR OF TERRORISM

Mr. KELLY. I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 433, S. Res. 623.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. Res. 623) calling on the Secretary of State to designate the Russian Federation as a state sponsor of terrorism.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment to strike all after the resolving clause and insert the part printed in italic and an amendment to strike the preamble and insert the part printed in italic as follows:

S. RES. 623

Whereas, pursuant to section 1754(c) of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (50 U.S.C. 4813(c)), section 40 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2779A), and section 620A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2371), the authority to designate a country as a state sponsor of terrorism rests with the Secretary of State;

Whereas Cuba, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Iran, and Syria are designated as state sponsors of terrorism;

Whereas, at the direction of President Vladimir Putin, the Government of the Russian Federation has and continues to promote acts of international terrorism against political opponents and nation states;

Whereas, under the orders of President Putin, the Government of the Russian Federation engaged in a campaign of terror, utilizing brutal