

(1) honors and celebrates the entrepreneurial spirit and contributions of small businesses in every community in the United States;

(2) applauds the efforts and achievements of the owners of small businesses and their employees in every community of the United States;

(3) recognizes that, in the face of significant challenges, the owners of small businesses have demonstrated incredible resilience;

(4) supports the designation of the week of April 30, 2023, through May 6, 2023, as "National Small Business Week";

(5) acknowledges the importance of providing access to underserved small businesses; and

(6) supports efforts—

(A) to hold Federal agencies accountable for fraud, waste, and abuse of taxpayer dollars; and

(B) to create an environment that enables small businesses to grow and create jobs.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO OBJECT TO PROCEEDING

I, Senator CHUCK GRASSLEY, intend to object to proceeding to the nomination of Eric G. Olshan, of Pennsylvania, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania for the term of four years, dated May 4, 2023.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I have seven requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

The Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 4, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a subcommittee hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 4, 2023, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 4, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 4, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 4,

2023, at 10:15 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 4, 2023, at 1 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 4, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct an executive business meeting.

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. 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.

SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF APRIL 24 THROUGH APRIL 28, 2023, AS "NATIONAL SPECIALIZED INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT PERSONNEL APPRECIATION WEEK"

NATIONAL WATER WEEK

UNITED STATES FOREIGN SERVICE DAY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 181 and that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following resolutions: S. Res. 181, S. Res. 198, and S. Res. 199.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged from the consideration of S. Res. 181, and Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. SCHUMER. I know of no further debate on the resolutions en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing no further debate, the question is on adoption of the resolutions en bloc.

The resolutions were agreed to.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the preambles be agreed to and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

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

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolution (S. Res. 181), with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of April 27, 2023, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

(The resolutions (S. Res. 198 and S. Res. 199), with their preambles, are

printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

HONORING CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 3 CHRISTOPHER ROBERT ERAMO, CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 2 KYLE D. MCKENNA, AND WARRANT OFFICER 1 STEWART DUANE WAYMENT

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I come to the floor this afternoon to speak to a tragedy that we saw this past week, just a week ago today. Two Army AH-64 Apache helicopters were making their way back to Fort Wainwright. Fort Wainwright is an Army post in interior Alaska. They had been training in the Donnelly Training Area. They tragically collided and crashed.

Three soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 25th Aviation Regiment from Alaska's 11th Airborne Division were killed, and I have come to the floor this afternoon to honor their lives and express my deepest condolences to their families.

CW3 Christopher Robert Eramo of New York was 39 years old. He had deployments in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He had served in Iraq, in Afghanistan, and most recently in Kuwait.

CW2 Kyle D. McKenna of Colorado was just 28 years old. He also had deployments in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and had served in both Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

And WO1 Stewart Duane Wayment of Utah was 32 years of age. According to an AP article, it said that he was "excited to be stationed in Alaska, to fly over rugged landscapes and see the northern lights and wildlife." His mother, Stacie Weaver, is quoted in that article as saying that "family was everything to him."

From basic training to Warrant Officer Candidate School to the Apache pilot pipeline, these men truly dedicated their lives to the service of our Nation; and, in doing so, they added to one of the proudest traditions in America while exemplifying the best of it, and that is the brave men and women who stand ready to protect and to defend us every day.

As we acknowledge the sacrifices that are made by the men and women in uniform, we have to remember that those sacrifices don't always come at times of war and times of combat. This accident, as I mentioned, came after a 2-week training exercise. Training exercises themselves can be dangerous, and for the individuals who take part in them, we recognize that they face challenges daily.

We also must remember, though, the tremendous sacrifices that are made by our military families. Theirs, too, are significant and placed upon them by circumstances that are beyond their control. When something bad happens, when some tragedy occurs, they lose husbands, wives, fathers, and mothers.

Many have never had to worry about that.

But, today, we are grieving with the Eramo, McKenna, and the Wayment families. All three soldiers were married. Mr. Wayment also had three young children that he leaves behind.

Scripture tells us that “the Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.”

And to the families, I know no words can lessen your grief, but I hope you will find some small measure of comfort in knowing that Christopher, Stewart, and Kyle were heroes and that they will always be remembered as such.

I know that the Fort Wainwright and the Fairbanks communities are absolutely heartbroken. There are families and brothers and sisters in arms who are grieving today. They are attending a private memorial service for their fallen comrades this afternoon in Alaska. My husband Verne and I offer our deepest condolences to them. Know that we are keeping all who serve in our prayers and all who are no longer with us.

This has been an awful, awful tragedy. There is one small sliver of light, however. There was a fourth servicemember who was injured in that same crash. He was treated at Fairbanks Memorial Hospital, and he has now been released. We are told that he is recovering at home. A full recovery is expected. So, hopefully, this can be some small bit of hope to the Fort Wainwright and Fairbanks communities that are suffering this loss.

It is, indeed, a sad moment for this military community, our interior community—know that in our golden hearts we will hold these men and their families tight.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

DEFEND OUR NETWORKS

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, over a decade ago, when President Obama was in office and Apple's iPad was just hitting the market, our intelligence agencies began to notice a disturbing pattern. Chinese-made communications equipment was multiplying across our country, placed on top of cell towers throughout the Midwest.

Equipment made by Chinese State-backed companies like Huawei and ZTE spread across my own home State of Nebraska, as well as nearby Colorado and Montana.

Curiously, these technologies were clustering near critical military locations in midwestern States. Nebraska is home to sensitive areas, like Offutt Air Force Base and a number of nuclear missile silos.

Well, the FBI looked into it. And they discovered that at least one Chinese company—Huawei—was regularly selling its equipment to rural providers at cheap prices that appeared unprofitable. But once installed, the equipment

would be located right next to American military assets.

The Chinese Communist Party is actively seeking ways to disrupt Department of Defense communications. And that is why we cannot allow communications equipment made in China next door to our military sites.

This is just one example of the pervasive threat Chinese-made equipment in our communications networks poses to our national security.

We know that the Chinese Communist Party intends to exploit these vulnerabilities for all kinds of activities, including espionage.

That is why, in 2020, the Federal Communications Commission banned the use of its funds to expand or maintain networks containing any Huawei or ZTE equipment. Since then, the Commission banned all equipment authorizations for several Chinese tech firms that pose threats to national security—blocking their imports and sale.

We also passed a law in Congress approving \$1.9 billion to secure our communications infrastructure—to rip out the Chinese network gear and replace it with secure equipment.

It has been years, but not all of this dangerous Chinese gear has been replaced. Approximately 24,000 pieces of Chinese-made equipment remain in 8,400 different locations across our country. Nearly all of the 85 companies approved by the FCC are still waiting for that Federal reimbursement money, because they aren't able to pay to replace the technologies without help.

The FCC's program is facing a budget shortfall of \$3.08 billion. The sum of money that we first approved based on initial estimates is not going to cut it.

That financial uncertainty means smaller, regional carriers—after being mandated by the Federal Government to rip out the equipment—won't receive the money they need to replace that high-risk Chinese technology.

I have heard from rural carriers that this basically leaves them with two options: one, go out of business; or, two, to never replace the equipment after they remove it, and, instead, that would reduce the size of their wireless networks.

Either option would be devastating for communities, especially communities in rural areas. We need more, not less, connectivity. And we need more, not fewer, jobs.

That is not just true in Nebraska but across this country.

Think about it. If these carriers go out of business or they reduce coverage, that is going to leave thousands of residents without wireless services—services that are essential for work, emergencies, and life in the 20th century. And people traveling through these vast areas of our country, they often won't have any services either.

Addressing this funding shortfall is urgent. The FCC has a July 15 deadline by which reimbursement requests are

due. If Congress doesn't act quickly to fix this issue before that July deadline, there won't be enough funds to cover costs. This would impact communities in 49—49—States, plus our United States territories.

Without action now, we face incomplete removal of high-risk Chinese equipment from U.S. networks—wasting the money that Congress has already passed.

I have introduced the Defend Our Networks Act to remedy this problem. Protecting our national security is vital, and it is also vital that we ensure the government's response to protect our security does not put smaller companies out of business.

The Defend Our Networks Act does both. It would allocate \$3.08 billion of unobligated COVID-19 emergency relief funds to the rip and replace program. That is only 3 percent of the unobligated emergency funds.

I introduced this bill with my colleague Senator HICKENLOOPER because securing our communications infrastructure, it is a national, it is a bipartisan, issue. The FCC commissioners, including Chairwoman Rosenworcel, have come out in strong support, demonstrating the importance of getting this done. Just a week ago, I had the opportunity to question Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo about this big problem that we have, and she agreed that we must address it immediately.

Over the coming weeks, I expect that we will continue to gain more bipartisan momentum. And I will continue to push for the swift passage of the Defend Our Networks Act, even as stand-alone legislation.

Spy balloons and secret police stations have recently reminded us of the Chinese Communist Party's sly and underhanded espionage tactics. If we cannot completely remove risky Chinese telecommunications equipment, how can the American people expect us to defend them from the threats that China poses?

We did the right thing when we passed the Secure and Trusted Communication Networks Act to establish the rip and replace program. Now, let's do the right thing again by completing the funding so that we can follow through on what we said we would do.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOKER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

ELECTRIC VEHICLES

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, since President Biden took office, he and our Democratic colleagues have been on a