

Whereas the Russian peacekeeping forces deployed in the region have not lived up to their role as defined by the November 9, 2020, statement, doing little to disperse Azerbaijanis blocking the Lachin Corridor, deescalate the situation, or prevent other Azerbaijani aggressions against the Armenian population in Nagorno-Karabakh;

Whereas the Department of State has warned, “Closure of the Lachin Corridor has severe humanitarian implications and sets back the peace process” and has publicly called on the Government of Azerbaijan “to restore free movement through the corridor”;

Whereas Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken spoke with Azerbaijan’s President Ilham Aliyev on January 23, 2023, “to urge an immediate reopening of the Lachin corridor to commercial traffic” and “underscored that the risk of a humanitarian crisis in the Lachin corridor undermined prospects for peace between Armenia and Azerbaijan”;

Whereas on February 18, 2023, the International Court of Justice ordered Azerbaijan “to ensure the unimpeded movement of persons, vehicles, and cargo along the Lachin Corridor”;

Whereas the United States serves as a co-chair of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe’s Minsk Group, along with France and the Russian Federation, and is committed to sustainable, long-term peace in the region; and

Whereas the United States and the international community have not been able to undertake any direct humanitarian support or relief efforts to address the needs of Armenian victims in Nagorno-Karabakh since the deadly invasion by Azerbaijani forces in October 2020: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns Azerbaijan’s blockade of the Lachin Corridor to Nagorno Karabakh;

(2) encourages the United States Government and international community to petition the United Nations Security Council, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, and other appropriate international bodies to investigate any and all war crimes committed by Azerbaijani forces against Armenian civilians;

(3) calls on the United States Government to work swiftly with international partners, including civil society organizations, regarding the deployment of international observers to the Lachin Corridor and Nagorno-Karabakh to explore opportunities for more effective and sustainable guarantees of security and peaceful development;

(4) calls on the President to immediately suspend any United States new, current, or pending military or security assistance to Azerbaijan, and to fully enforce section 907 of the FREEDOM Support Act (22 U.S.C. 5812);

(5) supports United States sanctions under existing statutory authority against Azerbaijani officials responsible for the blockade of Nagorno-Karabakh and other well-documented human rights violations committed against Armenians in the region, such as the targeting of civilian infrastructure and the destruction of historic, cultural, and places of worship of great significance to Armenians; and

(6) supports efforts by the United States, the European Union, and the international community to provide humanitarian assistance to victims of Azerbaijani aggression in Nagorno-Karabakh.

SENATE RESOLUTION 245—HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE VICTIMS OF THE HEINOUS ATTACK AT THE PULSE NIGHTCLUB ON JUNE 12, 2016

Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Mr. RUBIO) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 245

Whereas, on June 12, 2016, a gunman inspired by the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria targeted the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, Florida, where he killed 49 innocent victims and wounded dozens more in a despicable attack;

Whereas the attack at the Pulse nightclub was an attack on the LGBTQ community, the Hispanic community, the City of Orlando, the State of Florida, and the United States;

Whereas the Orlando community continues to mourn the tragic loss of life but has demonstrated remarkable strength, unity, and resilience in the aftermath of the horrendous event;

Whereas June 12 is designated as “Pulse Remembrance Day” in the State of Florida to honor the victims and survivors of the senseless attack;

Whereas the people of the United States continue to pray for those affected by the tragedy; and

Whereas June 12, 2023, marks 7 years since the lives of the 49 innocent victims were tragically cut short by this senseless act of terrorism: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commemorates the 49 innocent victims killed in the attack at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, Florida, on June 12, 2016, and offers heartfelt condolences to the families, loved ones, and friends of the victims;

(2) honors the dozens of survivors of the attack and pledges continued resolve to stand against terrorism and hate; and

(3) expresses gratitude to the brave law enforcement and emergency medical personnel who responded to the attack.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. KAINE. 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 COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 8, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a subcommittee 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, June 8, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the

Senate on Thursday, June 8, 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, June 8, 2023, at 10:30 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

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, June 8, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 8, 2023, at 10 a.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, June 8, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct an executive business meeting.

APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Republican Leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 99–93, as amended by Public Law 99–151, appoints the following Senators as members of the United States Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control: the Honorable CHARLES GRASSLEY of Iowa (Vice Chairman), the Honorable JOHN CORNYN of Texas, and the Honorable JAMES RISCH of Idaho.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE VICTIMS OF THE HEINOUS ATTACK AT THE PULSE NIGHTCLUB ON JUNE 12, 2016

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 245, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 245) honoring the memory of the victims of the heinous attack at the Pulse nightclub on June 12, 2016.

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

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

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

The resolution (S. Res. 245) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, JUNE 12, 2023

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 3 p.m. on Monday, June 12; that following the prayer and the pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that following the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Allen nomination; further, that the cloture motions filed during today's session ripen at 5:30 p.m.

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

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of Senator BOOKER.

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

SENATE PAGES

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I am grateful for the respect with which you said those two words, "New Jersey." It is an extraordinary State, and I know you recognize and respect it, sir.

I want to stand at this moment, as we are about to close out the Senate, to recognize perhaps one of the most unrecognized elements of the functioning of the U.S. Senate. There are extraordinary people who work in this institution—people who have dedicated their careers to it and support not just Senators but really this incredible, august body. But, today, I want to mark that this is the last day of a class of pages that is serving today. They are the youngest people on the Senate floor—15, 16 years old—but they have served on the frontlines of history over the last months.

I have seen a lot of young people pass through here, and this class of pages is the least funny pages I have seen.

(Laughter.)

I have asked them for jokes. They have given me things that could be

called a joke, but they did not have their intended purpose. I am disappointed. I stand in judgment of them.

(Laughter.)

But despite their lack of humor, what they did show was an abundance of commitment to country, to service, to patriotism.

Most of America doesn't realize what these pages go through to be here. They have an extraordinary challenging time. They actually wake up at 4 or 5 in the morning. They do their homework, they do their class work, and then they come and work a full-time job, often into the evening when the Senate goes on to 8 and 9, getting closer to 10. Ten is a wonderful, wonderful time because if they get past 10, they don't have to go to class in the morning. Is that it? They have no class. Now, I am not saying that they are classless people. I am not saying that if they go past 10 p.m., they have no class.

(Laughter.)

But think about this: They are waking up at 5 in the morning, they are going until 8 or 9, and they start it all over again. It is a difficult job, it is demanding, but yet they have done it with distinction.

Tomorrow, they will graduate, and they will go back to their lives all across the country. It is extraordinary. These young folks come from the North, the South, the East, the West, and they will go back, having had a unique experience. But although they leave this institution, they also leave their spirit, their energy, and their contributions.

I want to say to all of the pages—because I won't have a chance to say goodbye to them at the graduation—I want to say, on behalf of myself and also 99 others, it was an honor to serve with you in the U.S. Senate.

I hope as you continue your careers of service to country, of being the calling of a nation that needs its young people more than ever—people full of hope, people full of dreams, people full of commitment—that you consider coming back to this body. There are extraordinary people who serve here who were former pages, everyone from Parliamentarians, all the way to Senators themselves.

But on this day, on behalf of this body, I want to conclude by simply saying thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WYDEN). I say to my colleague, you speak for all of us.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, JUNE 12, 2023, AT 3 P.M.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 3 p.m. on Monday, June 12, 2023.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 3:44 p.m., adjourned until Monday, June 12, 2023, at 3 p.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

THE JUDICIARY

KENECHUKWU ONYEMAECHE OKOCHA, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS, VICE WILLIAM WARD NOOTER, RETIRED.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE

MICHAEL COLIN CASEY, OF KENTUCKY, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL COUNTERINTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY CENTER, VICE WILLIAM R. EVANINA.

THE JUDICIARY

JERRY EDWARDS, JR., OF LOUISIANA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA, VICE MICHAEL JOSEPH JUNEAU, RETIRED.

PHILIP S. HADJI, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS, VICE LYDIA KAY GRIGGSBY, ELEVATED.

BRANDON S. LONG, OF LOUISIANA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA, VICE MARTIN L. C. FELDMAN, DECEASED.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

REBECCA C. LUTZKO, OF OHIO, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE JUSTIN E. HERDMAN, RESIGNED.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate June 8, 2023:

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

DILAWAR SYED, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR OF THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION.

THE JUDICIARY

MOLLY R. SILFEN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ERIC G. OLSHAN, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.