

The name “Juneteenth” is a combination of two words, “June nineteenth.” That was the day, in 1865, that the U.S. Army’s “General Order No. 3” was issued, finally informing the people of Texas of the Emancipation Proclamation—and that all of the remaining enslaved people in that State were free.

Sadly, on this Juneteenth—even as our Nation celebrates—we are witnessing the most concerted effort in decades to erase from our history America’s long and still unfinished struggle to fully end racism, the odious lie on which slavery was built. Last year, according to the American Library Association, there were 1,269 demands to ban books in school libraries in various States. That is more than double the number of book bans sought in 2021. And it is the greatest number of book bans demanded in the 20 years that PEN America, an organization dedicated to the freedom of expression, has kept records on this troubling trend.

What is the most frequent target of these new bans? Books involving, or even just mentioning, issues of race. And what are the books that these censors are demanding be pulled from the shelves of school libraries?

Here are some examples: “To Kill a Mockingbird” is one. Another is a biography of Jesse Owens, the great American runner who won four gold medals at the Olympic Games in Munich in 1936, shattering the Nazi myth of racial supremacy. In Florida, the book banners demanded that school textbooks containing the story of Rosa Parks remove race and racism as reasons she refused to move to the back of the bus. Such efforts to erase history are an attack on the freedom to read and learn.

This week, my State of Illinois became the first State in the Nation to ban this form of censorship by public libraries. I hope more States will stand up for history—and that on the eve of this Juneteenth, Americans will commit ourselves firmly to truth.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN DAVID OSBORN

• Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Capt. David Osborn, for his service to our Nation in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Captain Osborn entered the Marine Corps as a young man during World War II. After training as a pilot, he was deployed to the Pacific Theater where he was engaged in active combat. During his tenure in the Marine Corps, Captain Osborn flew vitally important but deeply dangerous missions, including several for which, he indicated, he volunteered. In all, Captain Osborn’s service contributed to the American military successes in the Pacific Theater. After the war, Captain Osborn continued his service as a flight in-

structor in Corpus Christi, TX. Captain Osborn was honorably discharged from the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve in March of 1958.

This year, Captain Osborn will celebrate his 100th birthday. He lives in Weston, CT, with his wife of 41 years, and cherishes time spent with his children and grandchildren. His honorable service is a model for all of us and will leave an enduring legacy.

We all owe our veterans a great debt of gratitude for fighting for our freedom and safety, and I hope my colleagues will join me in thanking Captain David Osborn for his remarkable history of service to our Nation.●

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND JOSEPH BAKER

• Mr. OSSOFF. Mr. President, I rise to commend Rev. Joseph Baker of St. James African Methodist Episcopal Church for his lifetime of service to the Chattahoochee River Valley and the State of Georgia. For the past 30 years, Pastor Baker has been a beacon of hope and service for members of the communities he has served since answering the call to preach in 1993. After relocating to Atlanta from Orlando to continue his higher education journey, Pastor Joseph Baker served as senior pastor of Saint Paul AME Church in Canton, GA, and both Saint Mary’s AME and Townsley Chapel AME Churches in Savannah, GA. Since July 2013, Pastor Baker has served the Columbus community as the 52nd pastor of St. James AME Church at the local, conference, and episcopal levels. He also serves as dean of the Southwest Georgia Annual Conference Board of Examiners and as a member of the Southwest Georgia Annual Conference Board of Trustees, Support of Presiding Elders and Ministerial Classification.

A product of the Suwannee County School System, the University of Central Florida in Orlando, and Turner Theological Seminary at the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, Pastor Baker continues to find ways to open doors of opportunity for others through access to education. For example, Pastor Baker established a partnership with Columbus Technical College to offer GED studies at St. James AME.

As Georgia’s U.S. Senator, I commend and recognize St. James AME pastor Rev. Joseph Baker for a lifetime of service on behalf of the State of Georgia.●

TRIBUTE TO MOISES VELEZ

• Mr. OSSOFF. Mr. President, I rise to commend Moises Velez of Macon, GA, for his years of service to Georgia’s Latino community.

Twenty-five years ago, Mr. Velez founded “Que Pasa,” the first Spanish newspaper in the Macon community. Mr. Velez’s vision of keeping newly arrived immigrants informed about vital services available to them in Middle

Georgia and across the State quickly transformed the newspaper into a trusted news source for the Latino community on important issues like health care, immigration, and education. “Que Pasa” keeps the growing Latino community in Middle Georgia informed about news and events statewide. Mr. Velez’s success led to his recognition as one of Georgia’s 50 most influential Latinos by the Georgia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in 2022. Mr. Velez is a representation of the extraordinary contributions of Georgia’s Latino community.

As Georgia’s U.S. Senator, I commend and recognize Moises Velez for his contributions to Georgia’s Latino community and years of service to the Macon community.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Ms. Kelly, one of his secretaries.

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REPORT OF THE VETO OF S.J. RES. 11, A RESOLUTION THAT WOULD DISAPPROVE THE RULE ENTITLED “CONTROL OF AIR POLLUTION FROM NEW MOTOR VEHICLES: HEAVY-DUTY ENGINE AND VEHICLE STANDARDS”—PM 15

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, spread in full upon the Journal, and held at the desk:

To the Senate of the United States:

I am returning herewith without my approval S.J. Res. 11, a resolution that would disapprove the rule entitled “Control of Air Pollution From New Motor Vehicles: Heavy-Duty Engine and Vehicle Standards.”

This rule amends the Environmental Protection Agency’s heavy-duty emissions control program—including its standards, test procedures, and other requirements—to further reduce the air quality impacts of heavy-duty engines. The rule cuts pollution, boosts public health, and advances environmental justice in communities across the country. It will prevent hundreds, if not thousands, of premature deaths; thousands of childhood asthma cases; and millions of missed school days every year.

The resolution would deny communities these health benefits by resulting in weaker emissions standards for heavy-duty vehicles and engines, which are significant sources of pollutants that threaten public health. If enacted, the resolution would squander \$36 billion in benefits to society—and an opportunity to lead on the defining crisis of our time.

Therefore, I am vetoing this resolution.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.
THE WHITE HOUSE, June 14, 2023.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:04 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1615. An act to prohibit the use of Federal funds to ban gas stoves.

H.R. 3099. An act to establish in the Department of State the position of Special Envoy for the Abraham Accords, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House of Representatives having proceeded to reconsider the resolution (H.J. Res. 42) disapproving the action of the District of Columbia Council in approving the Comprehensive Policing and Justice Reform Amendment Act of 2022, returned by the President of the United States with his objections, to the House of Representatives, in which it originated, it was resolved, that the said resolution do not pass, two-thirds of the House of Representatives not agreeing to pass the same.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 803(a) of the Congressional Recognition for Excellence in Arts Education Act (2 U.S.C. 803(a)), and the order of the House of January 9, 2023, the Speaker appoints the following Member on the part of the House of Representatives to the Congressional Award Board: Mr. Hudson of North Carolina. And, in addition: Dr. Vipul Dev of Bakersfield, California.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 3099. An act to establish in the Department of State the position of Special Envoy for the Abraham Accords, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 1615. An act to prohibit the use of Federal funds to ban gas stoves.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. TESTER, from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, without amendment:

S. 112. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to strengthen benefits for children of Vietnam veterans born with spina bifida, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The following executive report of a nomination was submitted:

By Mr. CARPER for the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

*Jeffery Martin Baran, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the term of five years expiring June 30, 2028.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. WELCH, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 1963. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to ensure College for All; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 1964. A bill to abolish the Office of Financial Research; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. PETERS, Mr. YOUNG, and Mr. LEE):

S. 1965. A bill to prohibit airport improvement grants funds from being used for contracts with entities that have violated intellectual property rights of United States entities; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. SANDERS, and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 1966. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to increase transparency and reporting on sexual violence in the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. CRAPO):

S. 1967. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish requirements relating to the responsibility of pharmacy benefit managers under Medicare part D; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TUBERVILLE (for himself and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. 1968. A bill to modify the annual and aggregate limits of Federal Unsubsidized Stafford Loans for graduate and professional students, and to terminate Federal Direct PLUS Loans for graduate and professional students, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. VANCE):

S. 1969. A bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to require reciprocity with respect to de minimis entries of articles, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 1970. A bill to modify requirements relating to financial aid disclosures; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. 1971. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for loan repayment simplification and income-driven re-

payment reform; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, and Mr. TUBERVILLE):

S. 1972. A bill to increase college transparency and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. MANCHIN, and Mr. PETERS):

S. 1973. A bill to require the purchase of domestically made flags of the United States of America for use by the Federal Government; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 1974. A bill to amend the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 to require export controls with respect to certain personal data of United States nationals and individuals in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. KING, and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 1975. A bill to require a GAO study on the compliance of discharge review boards with statutory provisions and directives related to liberal consideration of certain conditions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina):

S. 1976. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to clarify congressional intent and preserve patient access to home infusion therapy under the Medicare program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. OSSOFF (for himself and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 1977. A bill to modify the method for calculating the basic allowance for housing to more accurately assess the housing costs of junior members of the uniformed services; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. OSSOFF (for himself and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 1978. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to develop requirements for military tenant advocates for privatized military housing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 1979. A bill to amend title 9 of the United States Code with respect to arbitration of disputes involving age discrimination; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. OSSOFF (for himself and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 1980. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to provide housing accommodations for members of the Armed Forces and their dependents who are on military housing waitlists; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 1981. A bill to modify the Iran Nuclear Weapons Capability and Terrorism Monitoring Act of 2022; to the Select Committee on Intelligence.

By Mr. HICKENLOOPER (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. LUJÁN, and Mr. WICKER):

S. 1982. A bill to amend chapter 511 of title 51, United States Code, to modify the authority for space transportation infrastructure modernization grants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.