

Squeri, who is one of the most useful, honorable, compassionate people I have ever worked with, and his public service has made a difference in the lives of so many, including the lives some of the most vulnerable people around the world.

Not only do I want to thank him for the length of his service in the Senate, I want to thank him for the depth of his service. Matt joined my team in 2019 after several years working for our former colleague Senator Heidi Heitkamp and, before that, the Department of Defense and the Center For Strategic and International Studies.

His legislative skill and his policy expertise were immediately evident. What took a little longer to emerge was his encyclopedic knowledge of college football—especially for our shared alma mater, Stanford—not to mention his love for watching boxing.

For those of you who know Matt, that might sound surprising. But if you have worked with him, it makes perfect sense because, if the cause is worthwhile, if it is for democracy, if it is for justice, if it is for human rights, then Matt loves a good fight. He doesn't crash in, like a brawler. He works methodically, like a boxer.

A great example of that was early on, when negotiations on a bill had been stuck in a stalemate with the House for months and months. We had gone round and round with the House, and then Matt went to work. He floated over conflicts, he parried the problems, and, within 2 months, he knocked it out and passed it into law.

He has taken on much bigger fights since then. After joining my team he set out to cultivate working relationships with the staff of Members on both sides of the aisle of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the Congressional-Executive Commission on China. His goal was simple: to turn the CECC's—Congressional-Executive Commission on China—research, advocacy, and awareness-raising into bipartisan legislation and new laws that would make a real difference for real people.

In 2019, as the Chinese Government began its brutal crackdown on Hong Kong, Matt led our successful efforts to protect Hong Kong's people by banning the export of crowd control equipment to the Hong Kong police.

Soon, he took on an even more ambitious project: tackling the problem of the genocide of the Uighur people and their forced labor in Xinjiang Province.

He helped coordinate with the CECC the release of a landmark report in March 2020. That report became the launching point for passing some of the most ambitious human rights legislation the United States has ever considered, the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act.

The premise of the bill was quite simple: The American consumers have the right to know if their products are made with forced labor in China, and they have the right to choose not to do business with those companies.

Matt officially joined the CECC staff in 2021, and he was central to the negotiations that began in committee in January and continued all the way to final passage in December.

And he didn't stop there. He pushed the Olympics and the NBA to stop using uniforms made by—or made from materials made by—forced labor in China.

China, multinational corporations, the Olympics, the NBA—you see what I mean about him not shying away from a fight. And, since then, he has helped us hold hearings, introduce legislation, and improve policies to protect the people of Hong Kong, the people of Tibet, the Uighur people, and to stand up to the Chinese Government's transnational repression.

There is a lot more I could say about Matt's work on legislation. What stands out to me though and to everyone who knows Matt is just how wonderful he is to work with. As one of my senior staff said about starting in our office, "Matt was the person I looked up to, the person I wanted to emulate."

He is fun, he is unflappable, he is morally clear, and he is legislatively masterful. And he is generous with his time, whether he is helpful to those new to our team in learning their way around or helping them understand complex human rights issues in far corners of the world. We will miss having him as part of our team.

I quoted Emerson at the start of these remarks. Later, in the same piece, Emerson wrote:

[T]o leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch, or a redeemed social condition; to know even one life has breathed easier because you lived. This is to have succeeded.

Countless people around the world who have never met Matt Squeri have breathed easier because of his work.

So it is with gratitude that Team Merkley, the Congressional-Executive Commission on China, and I thank Matt Squeri for his service to this institution, his service to this Nation, and his service to human rights around the world. We wish him all the best as he moves on to his next assignment.

#### RECESS UNTIL 5 P.M. TODAY

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess until 5 p.m.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 3:05 p.m., recessed until 5 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. FETTERMAN).

#### MORNING BUSINESS—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate

proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations: all nominations placed on the Secretary's desk in the Coast Guard; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to any of the nominations; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and that the Senate resume legislative session.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

#### NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

##### IN THE COAST GUARD

\*PN978 COAST GUARD nominations (2) beginning MATTHEW A. GANS, and ending IAN W. MARKS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 6, 2023.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

#### KOREAN AMERICAN VIETNAM AL-LIES LONG OVERDUE FOR RELIEF ACT

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 366 and 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. 366) to amend title 38, United States Code, to treat certain individuals who served in Vietnam as a member of the armed forces of the Republic of Korea as a veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States for purposes of the provision of health care by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

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

Mrs. MURRAY. 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 with no intervening action or debate.

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

The bill (H.R. 366) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

#### REQUIRING THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA, FOR THE CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN LAND OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AT FARGO NATIONAL CEMETERY

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged from further consideration of

S. 2854 and 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 (S. 2854) to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into an agreement with the city of Fargo, North Dakota, for the conveyance of certain land of the Department of Veterans Affairs at Fargo National Cemetery, and for other purposes.

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

Mrs. MURRAY. 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 with no intervening action or debate.

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

The bill (S. 2854) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 2854

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

#### SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) CITY.—The term “City” means the city of Fargo, North Dakota.

(2) DEPARTMENT.—The term “Department” means the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(3) PARCEL.—The term “parcel” means the approximately 2.73 acres of land of the Department of Veterans Affairs at Fargo National Cemetery in Harwood, North Dakota, located in the southeast corner of the proposed expansion of the cemetery as depicted on the map provided by the Department entitled “Fargo National Cemetery” “Figure B” and dated April 21, 2023.

(4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

#### SEC. 2. CONVEYANCE OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS LAND AT FARGO NATIONAL CEMETERY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—After the acquisition by the Department of Veterans Affairs of 29.06 acres adjacent to the original 4.82-acre area of Fargo National Cemetery, North Dakota, and only if such acquisition is completed, upon a written request from the City for the conveyance of the parcel, the Secretary shall enter into an agreement with the City under which the Secretary shall convey to the City all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the parcel for the purpose of improving the experience of visitors and volunteers at Fargo National Cemetery.

(b) CONSIDERATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Under the agreement described in subsection (a), for the conveyance of the parcel, the City shall pay to the Secretary an amount equal to the market value of the parcel, as determined by the appraisal conducted under paragraph (2).

(2) APPRAISAL.—The Secretary shall conduct an appraisal of the parcel to be conveyed under subsection (a) in accordance with—

(A) the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions;

(B) the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice; and

(C) any other applicable law (including regulations).

(c) ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS.—The Secretary may require such additional conditions in connection with the conveyance of the parcel as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(d) PROCEEDS.—Proceeds from the conveyance of the parcel shall be deposited into the National Cemetery Administration Facilities Operation Fund.

#### SEC. 3. RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.

(a) NO REQUIREMENT FOR PURCHASE OR SALE OF OTHER PARCELS.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to require or encourage the Secretary to purchase or sell any parcel not described in section 1(3).

(b) NO REQUIREMENT FOR SPECIAL AGREEMENTS.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to require or encourage the Secretary to enter into any special agreement with an entity not described in section 1(1).

#### RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions introduced earlier today: S. Res. 420, S. Res. 421, and S. Res. 422.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, 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 resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

#### MORNING BUSINESS

(At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

• Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 254, motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Jennifer L. Hall to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Delaware. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted yea.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 255, confirmation of the nomination of Jennifer L. Hall to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Delaware. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted yea.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 256, motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Julia Kathleen Munley to be U.S. District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted yea.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 257, confirmation of the nomination of Julia Kathleen Munley to be U.S. District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted yea.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 258, motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Karla Ann

Gilbride to be General Counsel of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted yea.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 259, confirmation of the nomination of Karla Ann Gilbride to be General Counsel of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted yea.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 260, Passage of S.J. Res. 32, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to “Small Business Lending Under the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (Regulation B)”. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted nay.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 261, adoption of S. Res. 417, a resolution standing with Israel against terrorism. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted yea.●

#### TRIBUTE TO BETTY K. KOED, SENATE HISTORIAN

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, today I rise to honor and pay tribute to Senate Historian Betty Koed who is retiring this week after 25 years of service to the U.S. Senate. Betty is only the third person—and the first woman—to hold the position of Senate Historian, and our entire institution has benefited from her knowledge and expertise.

Betty has seen it all. She not only knows what is behind every door in this building, she also knows the stories behind so many important decisions that have been made in this Chamber over the years. She has been an invaluable resource who has dedicated her career to safeguarding the history that surrounds us and ensuring that it endures for generations to come. She has spent the past 25 years preserving, protecting, and promoting the history of the Senate and its Members, turning the records on our institution into stories for all Americans to experience both here at the Capitol and online.

Betty also provided critical support last Congress when I joined with former Senator Roy Blunt to pass a bipartisan resolution to dedicate the first two rooms in the Senate wing of the Capitol to women in recognition of former Senators Margaret Chase Smith of Maine and Barbara Mikulski of Maryland.

To commemorate her decades of esteemed service, this week, my colleagues and I joined together to unanimously pass a resolution led by Leader SCHUMER and Leader MCCONNELL to designate Betty as the first ever Historian Emerita of the U.S. Senate. I thank her for her dedication and service to this institution and to our democracy, and I wish her all the best in her retirement.