

Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3704, a bill to amend the Natural Gas Act to allow the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to approve or deny applications for the siting, construction, expansion, or operation of facilities to export or import natural gas, and for other purposes.

S. 3708

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3708, a bill to reprogram Federal funds appropriated for UNRWA to construct the southwest border wall and to prohibit future funding for UNRWA.

S. 3722

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3722, a bill to require a report on access to maternal health care within the military health system, and for other purposes.

S. 3775

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3775, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act, and for other purposes.

S. 3794

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3794, a bill to direct the Secretary of Labor to support the development of pre-apprenticeship programs in the building and construction trades that serve underrepresented populations, including individuals from low income and rural census tracts.

S. 3801

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3801, a bill to amend the Federal Reserve Act to prohibit the Federal Reserve banks from offering certain products or services directly to an individual, to prohibit the use of central bank digital currency for monetary policy, and for other purposes.

S. 3804

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3804, a bill to designate the area of Sumner Row between 16th Street Northwest and L Street Northwest in Washington, District of Columbia, as "Alexi Navalny Way".

S.J. RES. 61

At the request of Mr. CRAMER, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 61, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Federal Highway Administration relating to "National Performance Management Measures; Assessing Performance of the National Highway Sys-

tem, Greenhouse Gas Emissions Measure".

S. RES. 173

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 173, a resolution recognizing the duty of the Federal Government to create a Green New Deal.

S. RES. 547

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 547, a resolution acknowledging the two-year anniversary of Russia's further invasion of Ukraine and expressing support for the people of Ukraine.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. LEE, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. COONS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CRUZ, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. WELCH, Ms. BUTLER, and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 3813. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, relative to the powers of the Inspector General of the Department of Justice; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the text on the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3813

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 "Inspector General Access Act of 2024".

SEC. 2. INVESTIGATIONS OF DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE PERSONNEL.

Section 413 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

- (1) in subsection (b)—
 - (A) in paragraph (2), by striking "and paragraph (3)";
 - (B) by striking paragraph (3);
 - (C) by redesignating paragraphs (4) and (5) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively; and
 - (D) in paragraph (4), as so redesignated, by striking "paragraph (4)" and inserting "paragraph (3)"; and
- (2) in subsection (d), by striking ", except with respect to allegations described in subsection (b)(3),".

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. BENNET. Madam President, I have four 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 ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet

during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 27, 2024, at 2:30 p.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 Tuesday, February 27, 2024, at 2:15 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 27, 2024, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

The Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 27, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous that my intern Sophia D'Amelio be granted floor privileges for the balance of the day.

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

NATIONAL CHOLESTEROL EDUCATION MONTH

LDL-C AWARENESS DAY

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 496.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 496) designating September 2023 as "National Cholesterol Education Month" and September 30, 2023, as LDL-C Awareness Day.

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

Mr. BENNET. 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.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 496) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of December 13, 2023, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

THE CALENDAR

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of the following bills en bloc: Calendar No. 313, S. 3412; Calendar No. 314, S. 3570; and Calendar No. 315, S. 3577.

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

Mr. BENNET. I further ask that the bills be considered read a third time and passed and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate, all en bloc.

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

REUBEN E. LAWSON FEDERAL BUILDING

The bill (S. 3412) to redesignate the Richard H. Poff Federal Building located at 210 Franklin Road Southwest in Roanoke, Virginia, as the "Reuben E. Lawson Federal Building", and for other purposes, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read a third time, and passed as follows:

S. 3412

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 "Reuben E. Lawson Federal Building Act of 2023".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) Reuben E. Lawson dedicated his life and career to promoting the ideals of equality and inclusion as a lawyer for the Roanoke chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (commonly known as the "NAACP") who actively worked to end segregation in Southwest Virginia;

(2) arguing a number of significant cases in the Western District of Virginia, Reuben E. Lawson fought to ensure the enforcement of *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*, 347 U.S. 483 (1954), so that schools in the Roanoke region would be fully integrated; and

(3) Southwest Virginians are indebted to Reuben E. Lawson for his important work in ending segregation, and it is fitting that he be remembered in the current home of the court in which he valiantly fought.

SEC. 3. REUBEN E. LAWSON FEDERAL BUILDING.

(a) REDESIGNATION.—The Richard H. Poff Federal Building located at 210 Franklin Road Southwest in Roanoke, Virginia, shall be known and designated as the "Reuben E. Lawson Federal Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Richard H. Poff Federal Building shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Reuben E. Lawson Federal Building".

IRENE M. KEELEY UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

The bill (S. 3570) to designate the United States courthouse located at 500 West Pike Street in Clarksburg, West Virginia, as the "Irene M. Keeley United States Courthouse", and for other purposes, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read a third time, and passed as follows:

S. 3570

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

SECTION 1. IRENE M. KEELEY UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The United States courthouse located at 500 West Pike Street in

Clarksburg, West Virginia, shall be known and designated as the "Irene M. Keeley United States Courthouse".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the United States courthouse referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Irene M. Keeley United States Courthouse".

VIRGINIA SMITH FEDERAL BUILDING

The bill (S. 3577) to designate the Federal building located at 300 E. 3rd Street in North Platte, Nebraska, as the "Virginia Smith Federal Building", and for other purposes, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read a third time, and passed as follows:

S. 3577

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

SECTION 1. VIRGINIA SMITH FEDERAL BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The Federal building located at 300 E. 3rd Street in North Platte, Nebraska, shall be known and designated as the "Virginia Smith Federal Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Federal building referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Virginia Smith Federal Building".

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2024

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, February 28; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and that morning business be closed; further, that following the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Sneed nomination; further, that the cloture motions filed during yesterday's session ripen at 11:30 a.m.; that at 2:15 p.m., if cloture has been invoked on the Sneed nomination, the Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination; and that if cloture is invoked on the Damian nomination, all time be considered expired at 5:30 p.m.; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Wednesday's session, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. BENNET. 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 SANDERS.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, for some reason that I do not fully understand, it always appears to me that the more important the issue, the less it gets discussed here in the Congress and in the media—more important, less discussion.

And today I want to say a few words about one of those issues, and that is the ongoing and unprecedented humanitarian disaster which is taking place in Gaza and which is getting worse every single day.

On October 7, as I think we all know, Hamas established and went forward with a brutal terrorist attack against Israel killing 1,200 innocent people and took 230 hostages, some 100 of them are still in captivity. And in my view as I said many times, Israel had a right to respond to that attack and go after Hamas.

But what Israel did not have the right to do and does not have the right to do is to go to war against the entire Palestinian people, which is exactly what has occurred.

When I talk about issues that we in Congress do not fully engage in, discuss, appreciate, what we are talking about is that in Gaza right now some 30,000 Palestinians have been killed and more than 70,000 have been injured since that war began. This is a country, an area, of 2.2 million people. Two-thirds of those who have been killed or injured are women and children.

Unbelievably, and I think this is another point that is not discussed very often—1.7 million Palestinians, 80 percent of the population—80 percent of the population of Gaza has been driven from their homes. The men, women, and children have been driven from their homes with no safe place to go and no idea as to whether or not they will ever return to their communities.

Imagine that for a moment. Little kids 5 years old, 3 years old—they don't know what is going on. Bombs falling, pushed out of their homes, they don't know where they are going or whether, in fact, they will ever, ever return to their communities.

The bombing of Gaza—and again it must be talked about over and over again—is almost unprecedented in modern history. Seventy percent of the housing units in Gaza have been damaged or destroyed. Let me repeat that. Seventy percent of the housing units in Gaza have been damaged or destroyed. The civilian infrastructure of Gaza has been devastated. There is virtually no electricity. There are few supplies of clean water. There is not one functional hospital for 2.2 million residents of Gaza.

There is not enough food, not enough water, not enough fuel, and not enough medicine. And increasingly for the people of Gaza, there is no hope. This is the horrific reality. And I know here in