

90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF TUPELO PURCHASING POWER FROM TVA

• Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, 90 years ago this month, Tupelo, MS, went electric. The city became the first to purchase power from the Tennessee Valley Authority—TVA—sparking nearly a century-long partnership. We celebrate that distinction with an iconic sign at the intersection of Gloster and Main streets, which dubs Tupelo the First T-V-A City.

In 1934, just 2 percent of rural Mississippi households were connected to electricity. Many Southern farming families had already lived in poverty before the Great Depression made their situation even worse. Congress created TVA to begin addressing these challenges. The TVA mission was to provide low-cost electricity, promote economic development, and reduce flood risk and damage.

Tupelo is a testament to TVA's success accomplishing that mission. As a resident of the First TVA City, I look back on February 1934 with gratitude. Electricity helped unleash the latent potential of rural Mississippi, and we continue to reap the rewards today.●

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. PETERS, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, without amendment:

S. 1258. A bill to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to submit to Congress an annual report on projects that are over budget and behind schedule, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118-157).

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 Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Ms. SMITH, Mr. FETTERMAN, and Ms. ROSEN):

S. 3793. A bill to reauthorize the HOME Investment Partnerships Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. HEINRICH (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. SCHATZ, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

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

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. 3795. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that the 50 percent limitation on the deduction for meal expenses does not apply to meals provided on certain fishing boats or at certain fish processing facilities; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. WELCH (for himself, Mr. KAINÉ, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. SMITH, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. KING):

S. Res. 554. A resolution calling for the urgent delivery of sufficient humanitarian aid to address the needs of civilians in Gaza; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina):

S. Res. 555. A resolution designating the week of February 10 through February 17, 2024, as "National Entrepreneurship Week" to recognize the importance and contributions of entrepreneurs and startups to the economic prosperity of the United States and the well-being of every community across the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mrs. FISCHER):

S. Res. 556. A resolution to provide for the printing of the Senate Manual for the One Hundred Eighteenth Congress; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mrs. FISCHER):

S. Res. 557. A resolution authorizing the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate to conduct quarterly blood donation drives; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SCHMITT (for himself and Mr. HAWLEY):

S. Res. 558. A resolution congratulating the University of Missouri Tigers for winning the 2023 Cotton Bowl Classic; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 133

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 133, a bill to extend the National Alzheimer's Project.

S. 547

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 547, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the First Rhode Island Regiment, in recognition of their dedicated service during the Revolutionary War.

S. 644

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 644, a bill to expand the take-home prescribing of methadone through pharmacies.

S. 1332

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1332, a bill to require the Office of Management and Budget to revise the Standard Occupational Classification system to establish a separate code for direct support professionals, and for other purposes.

S. 1514

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma

(Mr. MULLIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1514, a bill to amend the National Housing Act to establish a mortgage insurance program for first responders, and for other purposes.

S. 1631

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1631, a bill to enhance the authority granted to the Department of Homeland Security and Department of Justice with respect to unmanned aircraft systems and unmanned aircraft, and for other purposes.

S. 2643

At the request of Mr. LUJÁN, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2643, a bill to amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act to modify eligibility for prevented planting insurance under certain drought conditions, and for other purposes.

S. 2937

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2937, a bill to increase the rate of duty applicable to certain ferrosilicon produced in the Russian Federation or the Republic of Belarus and to require a domestic production assessment before increasing rates of duty applicable to products of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus under the Suspending Normal Trade Relations with Russia and Belarus Act, and for other purposes.

S. 3629

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) and the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) were added as cosponsors of S. 3629, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to revise recidivist penalty provisions for child sexual exploitation offenses to uniformly account for prior military convictions, thereby ensuring parity among Federal, State, and military convictions, and for other purposes.

S. 3764

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3764, a bill to extend and authorize annual appropriations for the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom through fiscal year 2026.

S. 3770

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3770, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize grants to support schools of nursing in increasing the number of nursing students and faculty and in program enhancement and infrastructure modernization, and for other purposes.

S. 3779

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) was added as a cosponsor

of S. 3779, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants to establish or expand programs to implement evidence-aligned practices in health care settings for the purpose of reducing the suicide rates of covered individuals, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 57

At the request of Mr. SCHMITT, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 57, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of the Treasury relating to "Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds".

S. RES. 547

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) were added as cosponsors 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 1392

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1392 intended to be proposed to H.R. 815, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements relating to the eligibility of veterans to receive reimbursement for emergency treatment furnished through the Veterans Community Care program, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1409

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1409 intended to be proposed to H.R. 815, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements relating to the eligibility of veterans to receive reimbursement for emergency treatment furnished through the Veterans Community Care program, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1409 intended to be proposed to H.R. 815, supra.

At the request of Mr. PETERS, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1409 intended to be proposed to H.R. 815, supra.

AMENDMENT NO. 1411

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1411 intended to be proposed to H.R. 815, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements relating to the eligibility of veterans to receive reimbursement for emergency treatment furnished through the Veterans Community Care program, and for other purposes.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 554—CALLING FOR THE URGENT DELIVERY OF SUFFICIENT HUMANITARIAN AID TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF CIVILIANS IN GAZA

Mr. WELCH (for himself, Mr. KAINE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. SMITH, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. KING) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 554

Whereas the population of the Gaza Strip, an estimated 2,200,000 people, are classified as in crisis or worse with respect to levels of acute food insecurity as reported by the Integrated Food Security and Nutrition Phase Classification;

Whereas, according to the World Food Program, an estimated 1,700,000 people are facing potential imminent starvation in Gaza;

Whereas women habitually eat last and least in times of heightened food insecurity;

Whereas the World Health Organization reports that a lack of adequate medical supplies, food, water, and fuel have severely compromised an already under-resourced health system in Gaza;

Whereas, according to the World Health Organization, there are only 16 partially functioning hospitals in Gaza;

Whereas the World Health Organization has recorded an increased risk of preventable diseases, diarrhea, and acute respiratory infections in Gaza;

Whereas the water and sanitation systems in Gaza have been severely damaged or destroyed, and the United Nations has reported that more than 96 percent of the available water supply in Gaza is unfit for human consumption;

Whereas there has been extensive damage to other critical infrastructure in Gaza, impeding the delivery of humanitarian aid;

Whereas improvements to the deconfliction process are needed in Gaza to allow humanitarian organizations to safely carry out their missions delivering aid to individuals most in need;

Whereas the United States has helped lead the humanitarian response in Gaza and is the largest single-state funder of humanitarian aid to the Palestinian people;

Whereas, prior to the conflict that began in 2023, an average of 500 trucks carrying fuel, commodities, and private sector goods entered Gaza every working day;

Whereas the number of aid trucks entering Gaza has fallen to an average drastically below 500 per day;

Whereas the opening of Kerem Shalom crossing was a welcome step in facilitating an increase in aid delivery into Gaza;

Whereas the process of inspections of aid trucks seeking entry to Gaza remains inefficient, creating substantial delays in the delivery of aid; and

Whereas United States officials have worked to increase access for aid trucks and to alleviate the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, but far more needs to be done: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate urgently calls on the administration of President Joseph R. Biden, in coordination with United States allies and partners within the international community, to help facilitate a dramatic increase in humanitarian aid to prevent starvation and disease in Gaza by—

(1) streamlining the inspection of trucks entering Gaza;

(2) increasing the access points for aid deliveries into Gaza;

(3) ensuring the distribution of adequate fuel to hospitals and humanitarian organizations in Gaza;

(4) ensuring the ability of humanitarian organizations to deliver aid safely and urgently in Gaza;

(5) expanding the number of safe shelters and food distribution locations for displaced people in Gaza;

(6) supporting efforts to restore water supply lines; and

(7) working to secure the additional funding necessary to support the humanitarian response.

SENATE RESOLUTION 555—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 10 THROUGH FEBRUARY 17, 2024, AS "NATIONAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP WEEK" TO RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF ENTREPRENEURS AND STARTUPS TO THE ECONOMIC PROSPERITY OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE WELL-BEING OF EVERY COMMUNITY ACROSS THE UNITED STATES

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 555

Whereas National Entrepreneurship Week is a congressionally chartered event taking place annually during the third week of February for the purpose of democratizing and promoting entrepreneurship across the United States through education, connection, and collaboration;

Whereas the United States is the most entrepreneurial country in the world, and the entrepreneurial spirit woven into the national consciousness is central to the identity of the United States;

Whereas that entrepreneurial spirit and the countless new businesses it has spawned have built the most innovative and productive economy in the history of the world;

Whereas the United States is a nation of entrepreneurs, with new and small businesses comprising 99 percent of all businesses in the United States and employing nearly ½ of all workers in the United States;

Whereas, given the importance of entrepreneurship to innovation, productivity gains, job creation, and expanding opportunity, a thriving entrepreneurial spirit is critical to economic growth in the United States;

Whereas National Entrepreneurship Week celebrates the initiative, drive, creativity, and commitment embodied in the entrepreneurial spirit of the United States;

Whereas National Entrepreneurship Week inspires students and the next generation of entrepreneurs by encouraging educators in grade schools, colleges, and universities across the United States to integrate entrepreneurship education into the classroom; and

Whereas research has demonstrated that students who participate in entrepreneurship education programs have better attendance records, perform better in core subjects, and have lower drop-out rates than students who do not participate in such programs: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—