

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

NATIONAL LITERACY MONTH

Ms. BUTLER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 814, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 814) designating September 2024 as "National Literacy Month".

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

Ms. BUTLER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and 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. 814) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 820

Ms. BUTLER. Mr. President, I understand that there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 820) to direct the Federal Communications Commission to publish a list of entities that hold authorizations, licenses, or other grants of authority issued by the Commission and that have certain foreign ownership, and for other purposes.

Ms. BUTLER. Mr. President, I now ask for a second reading, and in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bill will be read a second time on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2024

Ms. BUTLER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned under the provisions of S. Res. 813 until 3 p.m. on Monday, September 16; that following the prayer and 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 Ritz nomination postclosure; further, that all time be considered expired at 5:30 p.m. on Monday and that if any nominations are confirmed during Monday'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

Ms. BUTLER. 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 McCONNELL.

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

The Republican leader.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID HAUPTMANN

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, when I announced back in February that I would be wrapping up my time as Republican leader, I assured our colleagues that I wouldn't be bowing out of worthwhile fights anytime soon, and, of course, I meant that. But it is never too early to tell the folks you work with that you appreciate them. There is no such thing as saying "thank you" too often. So this is as good a time as any to brag a bit about the team I have been so fortunate to have in my Capitol office.

Today, I would like to focus on a number of my talented communications staff, beginning with the longest serving member of our team, senior research adviser David Hauptmann. David himself has joked once or twice that he came with the furniture in the Leader's office, but I would rather not give up the credit for making such a great personnel decision myself.

In a line of work where turnover and burnout aren't uncommon, David's longevity is truly remarkable. But, like me, he relishes a worthy fight. We have seen plenty of them over the years together, and there always seems to be another one just around the corner.

By my count, David has been on hand for the last six Supreme Court nomination fights. Time and again, with tenacious focus, he has sifted through archives, combed media coverage, and lent deep institutional knowledge that equips my entire team for success. More than once, his research quite literally changed the course of confirmations.

But as much as I would like to believe this principled public servant has stuck around all this time out of personal loyalty, it is clear to anyone who knows David that what animates his work the most is a deep devotion to the Senate as an institution. Every last-minute project, every weekend session

spent away from his lovely wife Allison—all in defense of what makes the Senate the Senate. I know he agrees it has been worth every second.

So, David, thank you so much.

TRIBUTE TO MATTHEW BURTON

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, that is just half of the office's all-star research team. In any organization that has been around for a while, bringing in fresh ideas is essential, and Matt Burton has brought an invaluable new perspective as research director over the past year.

As is so often the case with recovering House staffers, I like to think Matt wasted no time at all becoming a Senate guy through and through, and behind his mild manner are killer political instincts and an unbeatable attention to the smallest details. These are, of course, essential qualities in a team I literally lean on for everything from equipping the conference with background research on the issues of the day, to vetting the records of pending nominations, to catching factual errors in drafts of my remarks. Simply put, nothing—nothing—gets past Matt Burton.

So this speech is a rare occasion when Matt hasn't seen and scoured an advance copy. We are in uncharted territory, and I hope he will forgive me for breaking protocol just this once.

Matt, it has been great having you on the team. Thank you for having my back.

TRIBUTE TO RYAN FLYNN

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, of course, the excellent work of our researchers and the whole team gets a major leg up thanks to the talents of my digital director, Ryan Flynn.

For as long as digital media have played a major role in politics, I have been fortunate to have a maven on the team making sure we could compete in a fast-changing online landscape. Each one has brought a unique perspective and incredible talents.

Ryan has met this high bar and pushed it even higher. He has excelled at a job that requires him to wear multiple hats. In a single day, he is in the trenches of online messaging campaigns and racing around the Capitol in real life to capture and preserve important moments for posterity.

Aside from a small handful of senior-most advisers, Ryan is often the only one in the room with me in the highest profile meetings with foreign heads of state and other notables, and he just takes it all in stride.

I am grateful that Ryan's wife Clare allows us to occupy so much of his time. I know the team is particularly grateful for Ryan's ability to lighten even the most demanding situations—sometimes with sincere encouragement, sometimes with a practical joke.

Ryan, thank you for all the hard work. Or as you say yourself, "Thanks for playing."

TRIBUTE TO KAILY GRABEMANN

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, now, Ryan is not the only one with the tough job of making me look good. That task also rests in the capable hands of my broadcast media adviser, Kaily Grabemann.

Kaily is simply the best in the business at what she does. Whether it is a quick radio call-in from the road or a big prime-time interview in the studio, Kaily makes sure I am armed and ready, including the occasional visual touch-ups she likes to refer to as “glam.”

As our colleagues know, I am not always a frequent flyer on the cable news networks. But with Kaily's help, I keep a close eye on who is. And in that regard, I am hardly the only beneficiary of her media savvy. For years now, colleagues across the Republican conference have come to rely on Kaily as a clearinghouse for media advisability, helping Senators get on the air with important messages and helping producers get the Senators they are looking for.

For the sake of their sanity, most folks in this town try to avoid spending too much time glued to the news. To my good fortune, Kaily doesn't have that luxury. There are a number of things I am sure Kaily would rather do with her evenings or Sunday mornings—like, perhaps, train for the next marathon—but I am grateful she has been so willing to keep a watchful eye out instead.

Kaily, thank you so much.

TRIBUTE TO SCOTT SLOOFMAN

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, now, this entire operation I have just described is rowing in the same direction thanks to the staff director of the Senate Republican communications center, Scott Sloofman.

Scott is actually a two-timer on my staff. The first time around, he hitched a ride back to Washington after steering my campaign's research operation through a vigorous reelection fight in 2014. It was clear from the beginning that he had a knack for politics like few people I have ever met.

As it turns out, “Sloof” felt so at home in the trenches of campaign life that we had to let him go out and win a few other races before he was ready to settle into life here in the Senate. When he came back, we wanted to make him feel at home so we lined up a couple of high-stakes Supreme Court confirmation battles and budget reconciliation fights.

Through it all, Sloof has displayed unflappable political instincts. And as the coordinator of a multipronged communications team, he has never been afraid to bet big on the right message. Time and again, his willingness to question assumptions, challenge conventional wisdom, and play devil's advocate have made his colleagues and me sharper and better prepared to take on tough challenges.

So, Sloof, I am glad to have you in my corner. Thank you so much.

TRIBUTE TO CATHERINE FRANCOIS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, now, the fine work of the communications center only makes it here to the floor because we have talented wordsmiths like my deputy speech writer, Catherine Francois, on the job. From her seat in the same noisy bullpen where the rest of the team wrestles with the news cycle, Catherine is engaged in a relentless process of air traffic control: digesting the latest news and research, helping me organize my thoughts on a given topic, running interference with fact checks and formatting, and getting the best possible draft on paper by the time the Senate opens every day, before doing it all over again the next day. It is a workflow that could make anyone's head spin, but Catherine's grace amid the chaos is all the more impressive when you consider that my team managed to poach her from the comparatively steady, contemplative world of policy analysis and think tanks.

So the comms center may have been quite a culture shock, but the habits of a true policy wonk die hard. Catherine has lent us an invaluable knack for hunting down fresh sources, interesting data, and underdiscussed angles on the issues of the day and then helping me package them in a compelling way for delivery from this podium. And I am so grateful for her contributions.

Catherine, thank you very much.

TRIBUTE TO DYLAN VORBACH

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, now on my chief speech writer, Dylan Vorbach. I admit that when Dylan's long-time predecessor, Andy Quinn, told me he was leaving, I worried what I would do without him. After all, the rapport you build with a speech writer is built on a lot of trust.

I shouldn't have worried. Dylan stepped right into the senior role and quickly became an invaluable partner in my preparations for all sorts of speaking engagements, especially on the topic of American leadership, which is what I have focused on so heavily.

Dylan is a consummate professional: loyal, reliable, and steady. He is a high-capacity, low-drama individual—an ideal combination for a job where everything can change on you in an instant.

When we engage in daily partisan warfare, Dylan's pen is as sharp as they come. But Dylan carries a unique piece of his own portfolio as well.

This institution is special, and the Senate leaders have a responsibility to the institution on certain occasions to speak not only for ourselves but also for our colleagues: a funeral for a beloved colleague, a tribute to a retiring doorkeeper, a heroic Congressional

Gold Medal recipient, or the Senate spouses who really keep all of us grounded. In each and every moment, Dylan strikes the perfect grace note. He makes us look better than we are, and that serves us all very, very well.

I am not quite sure how a young man raised in New England has managed to become an honorary son of the South, but ever since Dylan came to us from our former colleague Luther Strange, he has hung onto an extra talent for channeling the best parts of our country.

But Dylan's talents extend far beyond putting words on a page. Somehow, his idea of unwinding on the weekend is a multiday baking project or an off-road bike race. I am just grateful he hasn't broken any of his typing fingers.

So, Dylan, thank you so much.

TRIBUTE TO JERRY CALENGOR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, now, some of my staff can do their work from the relative peace and quiet of the office, but the last two folks I would like to thank today are dug in on the frontlines.

First, my deputy press secretary, Jerry Calengor. As some of our colleagues may recall, I have had good luck in the past hiring sharp communicators from the State of Minnesota. It must be something in one of those lakes.

Serious pride in his roots, along with a wicked sense of humor, helped him hit the ground running in the busy bullpen where much of this team spends their days. He wasted no time becoming an essential member of the research team, particularly when it came to carefully vetting nominations.

But it didn't take long to recognize Jerry's aptitude for dealing with the press more directly, and I am proud of the way Jerry has grown as a trusted adviser I turn to as I prepare for interviews, including our weekly stakeout. Appropriately, he still keeps an old hockey helmet at his desk for days when the incoming barrage from the press corps is especially thick.

Jerry is fortunate that his wife Grace tolerates this rough-and-tumble day job. As I didn't understand it, she was willing to road-trip back from their wedding so he could be in the office for a busy Monday.

On top of it all, Jerry is responsible for taking a last careful look at just about every public statement and press release I make, and then making sure people actually see them. I am grateful to have his good judgment and eagle eye double-check our work.

So, Jerry, thank you.

TRIBUTE TO DOUG ANDRES

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, finally, to folks around the Senate—or Twitter, as I understand—this last one needs no introduction: my trusted press secretary, Doug Andres. Doug is,