

(A) use time and resources to address early childhood literacy issues, the causes of poor reading scores, and potential solutions to those issues; and

(B) work to promote the love of reading among children; and

(6) encourages parents, other family members, and caregivers to introduce children to the world of books and other literacy activities in different ways, including by—

(A) reading to children;

(B) telling stories;

(C) teaching letters and words; and

(D) visiting libraries.

## SENATE RESOLUTION 853—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER 20 AS NATIONAL SERVICE DOG DAY

Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. TESTER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

### S. RES. 853

Whereas service dogs assist individuals with a wide range of challenges;

Whereas service dogs are able to support veterans struggling after war;

Whereas service dogs have assisted individuals in the United States since 1929;

Whereas evidence-based research has shown that service dogs provide numerous health and fitness benefits;

Whereas tens of thousands of service dogs are estimated to be working in the United States today; and

Whereas National Service Dog Day is an appropriate tribute to service dogs and the organizations that offer service dogs free of charge to United States veterans and individuals with disabilities: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) supports recognizing September 20 as National Service Dog Day;

(2) encourages all individuals in the United States to learn about the history of service dogs and the unique, positive impact service dogs have on individuals with disabilities; and

(3) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to conduct appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs to demonstrate support for organizations that train and pair service dogs with disabled individuals in the United States.

## SENATE RESOLUTION 854—TO AUTHORIZE TESTIMONY AND REPRESENTATION IN UNITED STATES V. KELLEY

Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

### S. RES. 854

Whereas, in the case of *United States v. Kelley*, Cr. No. 22-408, pending in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, the prosecution has requested the production of testimony from Daniel Schwager, a former employee of the Office of the Secretary of the Senate;

Whereas, pursuant to sections 703(a) and 704(a)(2) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, 2 U.S.C. §§288b(a) and 288c(a)(2), the Senate may direct its counsel to represent current and former officers and employees of the Senate with respect to any subpoena, order, or request for evidence relating to their official responsibilities;

Whereas, by the privileges of the Senate of the United States and Rule XI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, no evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may, by the judicial or administrative process, be taken from such control or possession but by permission of the Senate; and

Whereas, when it appears that evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may promote the administration of justice, the Senate will take such action as will promote the ends of justice consistent with the privileges of the Senate: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That Daniel Schwager, a former employee of the Office of the Secretary of the Senate, is authorized to provide relevant testimony in the case of *United States v. Kelley*, except concerning matters for which a privilege should be asserted.

SEC. 2. The Senate Legal Counsel is authorized to represent Mr. Schwager, and any current or former officer or employee of the Secretary's office, in connection with the production of evidence authorized in section one of this resolution.

## SENATE RESOLUTION 855—TO AUTHORIZE TESTIMONY AND REPRESENTATION IN UNITED STATES V. CUDO

Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

### S. RES. 855

Whereas, in the case of *United States v. Cudo*, Cr. No. 24-007, pending in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, the prosecution has requested the production of testimony from Daniel Schwager, a former employee of the Office of the Secretary of the Senate;

Whereas, pursuant to sections 703(a) and 704(a)(2) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, 2 U.S.C. §§288b(a) and 288c(a)(2), the Senate may direct its counsel to represent current and former officers and employees of the Senate with respect to any subpoena, order, or request for evidence relating to their official responsibilities;

Whereas, by the privileges of the Senate of the United States and Rule XI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, no evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may, by the judicial or administrative process, be taken from such control or possession but by permission of the Senate; and

Whereas, when it appears that evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may promote the administration of justice, the Senate will take such action as will promote the ends of justice consistent with the privileges of the Senate: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That Daniel Schwager, a former employee of the Office of the Secretary of the Senate, is authorized to provide relevant testimony in the case of *United States v. Cudo*, except concerning matters for which a privilege should be asserted.

SEC. 2. The Senate Legal Counsel is authorized to represent Mr. Schwager, and any current or former officer or employee of the Secretary's office, in connection with the production of evidence authorized in section one of this resolution.

## AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3294. Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 5009, to reauthor-

ize wildlife habitat and conservation programs, and for other purposes.

SA 3295. Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. HAGERTY) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 91, to award a Congressional Gold Medal to 60 diplomats, in recognition of their bravery and heroism during the Holocaust.

SA 3296. Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. TESTER) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 815, to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the female telephone operators of the Army Signal Corps, known as the "Hello Girls".

SA 3297. Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. MCCONNELL) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 6513, to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to confirm the requirement that States allow access to designated congressional election observers to observe the election administration procedures in congressional elections.

## TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

**SA 3294.** Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 5009, to reauthorize wildlife habitat and conservation programs, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Wildlife Innovation and Longevity Driver reauthorization Act" or the "WILD Act".

### SEC. 2. PARTNERS FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE ACT.

Section 5 of the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Act (16 U.S.C. 3774) is amended by striking "2019 through 2023" and inserting "2024 through 2028".

### SEC. 3. AFRICAN ELEPHANT CONSERVATION ACT.

(a) PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE.—Section 2101 of the African Elephant Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4211) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(g) MULTIYEAR GRANTS.—

"(1) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary may award to a person who is otherwise eligible for a grant under this section a multiyear grant of up to 5 years to carry out a project that the person demonstrates is an effective, long-term conservation strategy for African elephants and the habitat of African elephants.

"(2) EFFECT.—Nothing in this subsection precludes the Secretary from awarding a grant on an annual basis."

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 2306(a) of the African Elephant Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4245(a)) is amended by striking "2019 through 2023" and inserting "2024 through 2028".

### SEC. 4. ASIAN ELEPHANT CONSERVATION ACT OF 1997.

(a) ASIAN ELEPHANT CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE.—Section 5 of the Asian Elephant Conservation Act of 1997 (16 U.S.C. 4264) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(i) MULTIYEAR GRANTS.—

"(1) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary may award to a person who is otherwise eligible for a grant under this section a multiyear grant of up to 5 years to carry out a project that the person demonstrates is an effective, long-term conservation strategy for Asian elephants and the habitat of Asian elephants.

"(2) EFFECT.—Nothing in this subsection precludes the Secretary from awarding a grant on an annual basis."

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 8(a) of the Asian Elephant Conservation Act of 1997 (16 U.S.C. 4266(a)) is amended by striking "2019 through 2023" and inserting "2024 through 2028".

**SEC. 5. RHINOCEROS AND TIGER CONSERVATION ACT OF 1994.**

(a) RHINOCEROS AND TIGER CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE.—Section 5 of the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act of 1994 (16 U.S.C. 5304) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(g) MULTIYEAR GRANTS.—

“(1) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary may award to a person who is otherwise eligible for a grant under this section a multiyear grant of up to 5 years to carry out a project that the person demonstrates is an effective, long-term conservation strategy for rhinoceroses or tigers and the habitat of rhinoceroses or tigers.

“(2) EFFECT.—Nothing in this subsection precludes the Secretary from awarding a grant on an annual basis.”

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 10(a) of the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act of 1994 (16 U.S.C. 5306(a)) is amended by striking “2019 through 2023” and inserting “2024 through 2028”.

**SEC. 6. GREAT APE CONSERVATION ACT OF 2000.**

(a) MULTIYEAR GRANTS.—Section 4(j)(1) of the Great Ape Conservation Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 6303(j)(1)) is amended by inserting “of up to 5 years” after “multiyear grant”.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 6 of the Great Ape Conservation Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 6305) is amended by striking “2019 through 2023” and inserting “2024 through 2028”.

**SEC. 7. MARINE TURTLE CONSERVATION ACT OF 2004.**

(a) MULTIYEAR GRANTS.—Section 4 of the Marine Turtle Conservation Act of 2004 (16 U.S.C. 6603) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(h) MULTIYEAR GRANTS.—

“(1) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary may award to a person who is otherwise eligible for a grant under this section a multiyear grant of up to 5 years to carry out a project that the person demonstrates is an effective, long-term conservation strategy for marine turtles, freshwater turtles, or tortoises and the habitat of marine turtles, freshwater turtles, or tortoises.

“(2) EFFECT.—Nothing in this subsection precludes the Secretary from awarding a grant on an annual basis.”

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 7(a) of the Marine Turtle Conservation Act of 2004 (16 U.S.C. 6606(a)) is amended by striking “2019 through 2023” and inserting “2024 through 2028”.

**SEC. 8. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**

(a) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Annually, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the implementation of—

(1) the African Elephant Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4201 et seq.);

(2) the Asian Elephant Conservation Act of 1997 (16 U.S.C. 4261 et seq.);

(3) the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act of 1994 (16 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.);

(4) the Great Ape Conservation Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.); and

(5) the Marine Turtle Conservation Act of 2004 (16 U.S.C. 6601 et seq.).

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—A report submitted under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) a list of all awards issued each year under the applicable Act;

(2) the total monetary amount issued to each award recipient;

(3) the name of each award recipient organization;

(4) the country where each award will be implemented; and

(5) a description of the projects to be completed and completed under each award.

**SA 3295.** Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. HAGERTY) proposed an amendment to

the bill S. 91, to award a Congressional Gold Medal to 60 diplomats, in recognition of their bravery and heroism during the Holocaust; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “Forgotten Heroes of the Holocaust Congressional Gold Medal Act”.

**SEC. 2. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The following diplomats will be honored posthumously: Per Anger (Sweden), Jose Maria Barreto Bustios (Peru), Lars Berg (Sweden), Philippe Bernardini (Vatican/Italy), Hiram (Harry) Bingham IV (United States), Friedrich Born (Switzerland), Gilberto Bosques Saldivar (Mexico), Carlos de Liz-Teixeira Branquinho (Portugal), Samuel del Campo (Chile), Aracy de Carvalho Guimarães Rosa (Brazil), Jose Arturo Castellanos Contreras (El Salvador), Carl Ivan Danielsson (Sweden), Luis Martins de Souza Dantas (Brazil), Georg Ferdinand Duckwitz (Germany), Harald Feller (Switzerland), Francis (Frank) Foley (United Kingdom), Jean-Edouard Friedrich (Switzerland), Carlos Almeida Afonseca de Sampaio Garrido (Portugal), Raymond Herman Geist (United States), Feng-Shan Ho (Republic of China), Constantin Karadja (Romania), Alexander Kasser (Sandor Kasza) (Sweden), Elow Kihlgren (Sweden), Joseph Willem (Joop) Kolkman (Netherlands), Julius Kuhl (Poland), Aleksander Lados (Poland), Valdemar Langlet (Sweden), Charles (Carl) Lutz (Switzerland), George Mandel-Mantello (El Salvador), Florian Manoliu (Romania), Manuel Antonio Muñoz Borrero (Ecuador), Salomon Jacob (Sally) Noach (Netherlands), Giorgio (Jorge) Perlasca (Spain/Italy), Ernst Prodolliet (Switzerland), Eduardo Propper de Callejon (Spain), Franjo Puncuch (Yugoslavia/Slovenia), Konstanty Rokicki (Poland), Sebastian de Romero Radigales (Spain), Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli (Vatican/Italy), Angelo Rotta (Vatican/Italy), Albert Emile Routier (Turkey/France), Jose Ruiz Santaella (Spain), Stefan Ryniewicz (Poland), Angel Sanz-Briz (Spain), Abdol-Hossein Sardari (Iran), Henryk Slawik (Poland), Robert Smallbones (United Kingdom), Aristides de Sousa Mendes (Portugal), Jan Spisiak (Slovakia), Chiune (Sempo) Sugihara (Japan), Irenaeus Tspaldos (Spain), Alexander (Sandor) Ujvary (Vatican/Hungary), Selahattin Ulkumen (Turkey), Gennaro Verolino (Vatican/Italy), Vladimir Vochoc (Czech Republic), Ernst Vonrufs (Switzerland), Raoul Wallenberg (Sweden), Guelfo Zamboni (Italy), Peter Zurcher (Switzerland), and Jan Zwartendijk (Netherlands).

(2) On September 1, 1939, Adolf Hitler and the Nazis began their invasion of Europe, which started World War II and threw the world into chaos. The Nazi plan of mass murder of the Jewish population was in full motion. As battles were being fought between countries, Jews were being rounded up and sent to concentration camps throughout Europe. This process began a mass exodus of people out of Europe, especially those in the Jewish community.

(3) During the war, members of the Jewish community used every tool and means at their disposal to flee Nazi tyranny. Thousands tried to flee on trains or boats to escape from Europe.

(4) While the armies of countries were fighting each other, a handful of diplomats, from around the world, stepped forward and took heroic actions to save Jews fleeing Europe. This was an incredibly dangerous process. If the Nazis discovered the actions of

these diplomats they would be expelled, as a few of them were. Also, while worrying about the Nazis, diplomats had to worry about their careers and livelihoods back home. Many of them had strict orders from their home countries to not aid the Jewish population in any way.

(5) These diplomats used every means at their disposal to help Jews fleeing persecution. One of the most powerful tools the diplomats had to use was the issuing of passports and travel visas contrary to the instruction of the governments of the diplomats. This process alone is responsible for saving hundreds of thousands of Jewish families in Europe. This was not the only tool used as many of the diplomats were connected with the local populations and were great communicators for Jews trying to travel underground. They were able set up safehouses and getaways to hide Jews and especially Jewish children from Nazi authorities. In the most dangerous of times, several of these diplomats confronted the Nazis directly on behalf of the Jews and personally put themselves in grave danger.

(6) Every diplomat knew the dangers and knew what they were up against, and still pushed forward to save those in the most danger.

(7) The Congressional Gold Medal authorized under this Act will help remind humanity that when the diplomats were faced with terrible crises, they went beyond the fold, including risking their careers and the lives of themselves and their families, to engage in this humanitarian mission. The diplomats of today and future generations can look towards these heroes and be inspired by their lives of heroism and sacrifice.

(8) Nothing in this Act shall be construed as stating or implying that this group of honorees encompasses everyone who took this type of heroic action during this era. As the title attests, the “Forgotten Heroes” performed these deeds out of righteousness, with no expectation of public acclaim. The sponsors of this Act wish to honor this group of individuals for whose deeds the historical record is currently definitive and well-documented. Given that historical research is ongoing, in the event that robust documentation from professional historians, expert stakeholders, and public input identify others worthy of official recognition, future Congresses retain the right to recognize additional forgotten heroes of the Holocaust pursuant to future legislation.

**SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

(a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the presentation, on behalf of Congress, of a single gold medal of appropriate design in honor of the 60 diplomats identified in section 2(1), in recognition of their brave and vital service of saving Jews during World War II.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For purposes of the presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury (referred to in this Act as the “Secretary”) shall strike a single gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary.

(c) PRESENTATION OF MEDAL.—The single gold medal presented under subsection (a) shall be presented collectively to the eldest next of kin of each of the 60 diplomats identified in section 2(1), who shall receive the medal as part of a delegation consisting of a senior official representative of the country that each diplomat served and the cochairs of the Forgotten Heroes of the Holocaust Committee.

(d) UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the gold medal in honor of the 60 diplomats identified in section 2(1), the gold medal shall be given to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, where it will be available for display as appropriate and available for research.

(2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum should make the gold medal awarded pursuant to this Act available for display elsewhere, particularly at appropriate locations associated with Holocaust remembrance.

#### SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck under section 3, at a price sufficient to cover the costs thereof, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

#### SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.

(a) NATIONAL MEDAL.—Medals struck pursuant to this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

(b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

#### SEC. 6. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF SALE.

(a) AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.—There is authorized to be charged against the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund such amounts as may be necessary to pay for the costs of the medals struck under this Act.

(b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under section 4 shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund.

**SA 3296.** Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. TESTER) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 815, to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the female telephone operators of the Army Signal Corps, known as the “Hello Girls”; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Hello Girls Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2024”.

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) On April 6, 1917, the United States declared war against Germany. As a historically neutral nation, the United States was unprepared to fight a technologically modern conflict overseas. The United States called upon American Telephone and Telegraph (referred to in this section as “AT&T”) to provide equipment and trained personnel for the Army Signal Corps in France. AT&T executives in Army uniform served at home under the provisions of the Act entitled “An Act for making further and more effectual provision for the national defense, and for other purposes.”, approved June 3, 1916 (referred to in this section as the “National Defense Act of 1916”), which allowed for the induction of individuals with specialized skills into a reserve force.

(2) When General John Pershing sailed for Europe in May of 1917 as head of the American Expeditionary Forces (referred to in this section as the “AEF”), he took telephone operating equipment with him in recognition of the inadequacy of European circuitry and with the understanding that telephones would play a key role in battlefield communications for the first time in the history of war.

(3) From May to November of 1917, the AEF struggled to develop the telephone service necessary for the Army to function under battlefield conditions. Monolingual infantrymen from the United States were unable to connect calls rapidly or communicate effectively with their French counterparts to put calls through over toll lines that linked one region of the country with another. The Army found that the average male operator required 60 seconds to make a connection. That rate was unacceptably slow, especially for operational calls between command outposts and the front lines.

(4) During this time, in the United States, telephone operating was largely sex-segregated. Hired for their speed in connecting calls, women filled 85 percent of the telephone operating positions in the United States. It took the average female operator 10 seconds to make a connection.

(5) On November 8, 1917, General Pershing cabled the War Department and wrote, “On account of the great difficulty of obtaining properly qualified men, request organization and dispatch to France a force of women telephone operators all speaking French and English equally well.”. To begin, General Pershing requested 100 women under the command of a commissioned captain, writing that “All should have allowances of Army nurses and should be uniformed.”.

(6) The War Department sent press releases to newspapers across the United States to recruit women willing to serve for the duration of the war and face the hazards of submarine warfare and aerial bombardment. These articles emphasized that patriotic women would be “full-fledged soldier[s] under the articles of war” and would “do as much to help win the war as the men in khaki who go ‘over the top.’”. All women selected would take the Army oath.

(7) More than 7,600 women volunteered for the 100 positions described in paragraph (5), and the first recruits took the Army oath on January 15, 1918.

(8) Like nurses and doctors at the time, female Signal Corps members had relative rather than traditional ranks and were ranked as Operator, Supervisor, or Chief Operator. When promoted, the women were required to swear the Army oath again.

(9) Telephone operators were the first women to serve as soldiers in non-medical classifications, and the job of the operators was to help win the war, not to mitigate the harms of the war. In popular parlance, they were known as the “Hello Girls”.

(10) Signal Corps Operators wore Army uniforms and Army insignia always, as well as standard-issue identity disks in case of death, and were subject to court martial for infractions of the military code.

(11) Unbeknownst to the women operators and their immediate officers, the legal counsel of the Army ruled internally on March 20, 1918, that the women were not actually soldiers but contract employees, even though the women had not seen or signed any contracts. Military code allowed only for the induction of men, and the code remained unchanged despite the orders of General Pershing. Nevertheless, legal counsel also recognized that the National Defense Act of 1916, which allowed for the induction of members of the telephone industry of the United States into the Armed Forces, imposed no gender restrictions.

(12) Four days later, on March 24, 1918, the first contingent of operators began their official duties in France. The operators arrived before most infantrymen of the Armed Forces in order to facilitate logistics and deployment and spent their first night in Paris under German bombardment.

(13) After the arrival of the operators, telephone service in France improved imme-

diately, as calls tripled from 13,000 to 36,000 per day.

(14) The Army quickly recruited, trained, and deployed 5 additional contingents of female Signal Corps operators. With these personnel, the number of calls increased to 150,000 per day.

(15) In addition to standard telephone operating, bilingual Signal Corps members provided simultaneous translation between officers from France and officers from the United States, who were communicating by telephone.

(16) The AEF fought their first major battles in the last 2 months of the war. By that point, the Signal Corps considered the contributions of women to be so essential that, in telephone exchanges closest to the front line, the Army exclusively used women, in rotating 12-hour shifts. In the rear, the Army established rotating 8-hour shifts and gave male soldiers the overnight shift when telephone traffic was slower.

(17) Seven bilingual operators—

(A) served at the Battles of St. Mihiel and Meuse-Argonne under the immediate command of General Pershing;

(B) staffed the Operations Boards through which orders to advance, fire, and retreat were delivered to soldiers in the trenches, to artillery units on alert, and to pilots awaiting orders at French airfields; and

(C) were awarded a “Defensive Sector Clasp” for the Meuse-Argonne operation.

(18) The Chief Operator supervising the Hello Girls, Grace Banker of Passaic, New Jersey, was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal. Out of 16,000 eligible Signal Corps officers, Banker was one of only 18 individuals so honored.

(19) Thirty additional operators received special commendations, many signed by General Pershing himself, for “exceptionally meritorious and conspicuous services” in “Advance Sections” of the conflict.

(20) The war ended on November 11, 1918. As of that date, 223 female operators served in France and had connected 26,000,000 calls for the AEF.

(21) The Chief Signal Officer of the Army Signal Corps wrote in his official report 2 days after the date on which the war ended that “a large part of the success of the communications of this Army is due to . . . a competent staff of women operators.”.

(22) After the war ended, some women were ordered to Coblenz in Germany for the occupation of that country and to Paris for the Paris Peace Treaty of 1919 to continue telephone operations, sometimes in direct support of President Woodrow Wilson.

(23) Two operators, Corah Bartlett and Inez Crittenden, died in France in the service of the United States and were buried there in military cemeteries with military ceremonies. Those operators died of the same influenza pandemic that killed more soldiers of the Armed Forces than combat operations.

(24) Women of the Army Signal Corps were ineligible for discharge until formal release. Because of their role in logistics, those women were among the last soldiers to come home to the United States. The last Signal Corps operators returned from France in January of 1920.

(25) Upon arrival in the United States, the Army informed female veterans that they had performed as civilians, not soldiers, even though operators had served in Army uniform in a theater of war surrounded by men who were similarly engaged.

(26) Despite the objections of General George Squier, the top-ranking officer in the Signal Corps, the Army denied Signal Corps women the veterans’ benefits granted to male soldiers and female nurses, such as—

(A) hospitalization for disabilities incurred in the line of duty;

(B) cash bonuses;  
 (C) soldiers' pensions;  
 (D) flags on their coffins; and  
 (E) the Victory Medals promised them in France.

(27) For the next 60 years, female veterans, led by Merle Egan from Montana, petitioned Congress more than 50 times for their recognition. In 1977, under the sponsorship of Senator Barry Goldwater, Congress passed legislation to retroactively acknowledge the military service of the Women's Airforce Service Pilots (referred to in this section as "WASPs") of World War II and "the service of any person in any other similarly situated group the members of which rendered service to the Armed Forces of the United States in a capacity considered civilian employment or contractual service at the time such service was rendered".

(28) On November 23, 1977, President Jimmy Carter signed the legislation described in paragraph (27) into law as the GI Bill Improvement Act of 1977 (Public Law 95-202; 91 Stat. 1433).

(29) The Signal Corps telephone operators applied for, and were granted, status as veterans in 1979.

(30) Only 33 of the operators who had returned home after the war were still alive to receive their Victory Medals and official discharge papers, which were finally awarded in 1979.

(31) One of the women, Olive Shaw from Massachusetts, returned to the United States after the war, where she worked on the professional staff of Congresswoman Edith Nourse Rogers. Shaw lived to receive her honorable discharge and was the first burial when the Massachusetts National Cemetery opened on October 11, 1980. Shaw's uniform is on display at the National World War I Museum and Memorial in Kansas City, Missouri.

(32) Upon receipt of her honorable discharge at a ceremony in her home in Marine City, Michigan, "Hello Girl" Oleda Joure Christides raised the paper to her lips and kissed it. The only thing Christides ever wanted from the Federal Government was a flag on her coffin.

(33) On July 1, 2009, President Barack Obama signed into law Public Law 111-40 (123 Stat. 1958), which awarded the WASPs the Congressional Gold Medal for their service to the United States.

(34) For their role as pioneers who paved the way for all women in uniform, and for service that was essential to victory in World War I, the "Hello Girls" merit similar recognition.

### SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) AWARD AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the award, on behalf of Congress, of a single gold medal of appropriate design in honor of the female telephone operators of the Army Signal Corps (commonly known as the "Hello Girls"), in recognition of those operators—

- (1) pioneering military service;
  - (2) devotion to duty; and
  - (3) 60-year struggle for—
- (A) recognition as soldiers; and  
 (B) veterans' benefits.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purposes of the award described in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury (referred to in this Act as the "Secretary") shall strike the gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary.

(c) SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—After the award of the gold medal under subsection (a), the medal shall be given to the Smithsonian Institu-

tion, where the medal shall be available for display, as appropriate, and made available for research.

(2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Smithsonian Institution should make the gold medal received under paragraph (1) available elsewhere, particularly at—

- (A) appropriate locations associated with—
- (i) the Army Signal Corps;
- (ii) the Women in Military Service for America Memorial;
- (iii) the U.S. Army Women's Museum; and
- (iv) the National World War I Museum and Memorial; and

(B) any other location determined appropriate by the Smithsonian Institution.

### SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck under section 3 at a price sufficient to cover the costs of the medals, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

### SEC. 5. NATIONAL MEDALS.

(a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—Medals struck under this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

(b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

### SEC. 6. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF SALE.

(a) AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.—There is authorized to be charged against the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund such amounts as may be necessary to pay for the costs of the medals struck under this Act.

(b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under section 4 shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund.

**SA 3297.** Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. McCONNELL) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 6513, to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to confirm the requirement that States allow access to designated congressional election observers to observe the election administration procedures in congressional elections; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Confirmation Of Congressional Observer Access Act of 2024" or the "COCOA Act of 2024".

### SEC. 2. ACCESS FOR CONGRESSIONAL ELECTION OBSERVERS.

(a) ACCESS REQUIRED.—Title III of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21081 et seq.) is amended—

- (1) by redesignating section 304 and 305 as sections 305 and 306; and
- (2) by inserting after section 303 the following new section:

### "SEC. 304. ACCESS FOR CONGRESSIONAL ELECTION OBSERVERS.

"(a) FINDING OF CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY.—Congress finds that, regardless of legislative action, it has the authority to send congressional election observers to observe polling locations, any location where processing, scanning, tabulating, canvassing, recounting, auditing, or certifying voting results is occurring, or any other part of the process associated with elections for Federal office under the authorities granted under article 1, section 5, clause 1 and article 1,

section 4, clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States. Procedures described herein do not establish any new authorities or procedures with respect to Congress' constitutional authority to observe congressional elections but are provided simply to permit a convenient statutory reference for existing congressional authority and activity.

### "(b) REQUIRING STATES TO PROVIDE ACCESS FOR OBSERVERS.—

"(1) REQUIREMENT.—A State shall provide each individual who is acting as a designated congressional election observer for an election for Federal office with full access to clearly observe all elements of election administration procedures, including, but not limited to, access to any area in which a ballot is cast, processed, scanned, tabulated, canvassed, recounted, audited, or certified, including during pre- and post-election procedures.

"(2) RESTRICTIONS ON ACTIVITIES OF OBSERVERS.—No designated congressional election observer may handle a ballot or election equipment (whether voting or nonvoting or whether tabulating or nontabulating), advocate for any position or candidate, take any action to reduce ballot secrecy or voter privacy, take any action to interfere with the ability of a voter to cast a ballot or an election administrator to carry the administrator's duties, or otherwise interfere with the election administration process.

"(3) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall prohibit a designated congressional election observer from asking questions of an election administrator, election official, or election worker, or any other State or local official.

### "(c) CONDUCT OF OBSERVERS.—

#### "(1) REMOVAL.—

"(A) AUTHORIZATION REMOVAL BY ELECTION OFFICIAL.—If a State or local election official has a reasonable basis to believe that a designated congressional election observer has engaged in or imminently will engage in intimidation or deceptive practices prohibited by Federal law, or in the disruption of voting, processing, scanning, tabulating, canvassing, or recounting of ballots, or the certification of results, a State or local election official may remove that observer from the area involved.

"(B) NOTICE TO COMMITTEE.—If a designated congressional election observer is removed from an area under subparagraph (A), the election official shall, within 24 hours of the observer's removal—

"(i) inform the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives or the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate, as applicable; and

"(ii) provide written notice detailing the reason or reasons the designated congressional election observer was removed.

"(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—For purposes of this subsection, the mere presence of a designated congressional election observer during an observation of election administration procedures, without any additional indicia supporting a reasonable basis for removal, is not a sufficient reason for removal under paragraph (1)(A).

"(3) RIGHT TO REPLACE OBSERVER.—If a designated congressional election observer is properly removed under paragraph (1)(A), the chair or ranking minority member of the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives or the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate, as appropriate, may send another designated congressional election observer as a replacement for the remaining duration of the observation of election administration procedures.

"(d) DESIGNATED CONGRESSIONAL ELECTION OBSERVER DESCRIBED.—In this section, a

'designated congressional election observer' is a House or Senate employee who is designated in writing by the chair or ranking minority member of the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives or the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate, or a successor committee, to gather information with respect to an election, including in the event that the election is contested in the House of Representatives or the Senate and for other purposes permitted by article 1, section 5, clause 1 and article 1, section 4, clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States.

"(e) STATE DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'State' means each of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands."

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT RELATING TO ENFORCEMENT.—Section 401 of such Act (52 U.S.C. 21111) is amended by striking "and 303" and inserting "303, and 304".

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of such Act is amended—

(1) by redesignating the items relating to sections 304 and 305 as relating to sections 305 and 306; and

(2) by inserting after the item relating to section 303 the following:

"Sec. 304. Confirming access for congressional election observers."

#### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I have six 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 FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 24, 2024, at 10 a.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, September 24, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

##### COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 24, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

##### COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 24, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

##### COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 24, 2024, at 10 a.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, September 24, 2024, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

#### PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that Valerie Ullrich, a fellow in our office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of this Congress.

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

#### WILDLIFE INNOVATION AND LONGEVITY DRIVER REAUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate considerations of Calendar No. 332, H.R. 5009.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5009) to reauthorize wildlife habitat and conservation programs, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the Carper-Capito substitute amendment at the desk be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time.

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

The amendment (No. 3294) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

##### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Wildlife Innovation and Longevity Driver reauthorization Act" or the "WILD Act".

##### SEC. 2. PARTNERS FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE ACT.

Section 5 of the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Act (16 U.S.C. 3774) is amended by striking "2019 through 2023" and inserting "2024 through 2028".

##### SEC. 3. AFRICAN ELEPHANT CONSERVATION ACT.

(a) PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE.—Section 2101 of the African Elephant Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4211) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(g) MULTIYEAR GRANTS.—

"(1) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary may award to a person who is otherwise eligible for a grant under this section a multiyear grant of up to 5 years to carry out a project that the person demonstrates is an effective, long-term conservation strategy for African elephants and the habitat of African elephants.

"(2) EFFECT.—Nothing in this subsection precludes the Secretary from awarding a grant on an annual basis."

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 2306(a) of the African Elephant Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4245(a)) is amended by striking "2019 through 2023" and inserting "2024 through 2028".

##### SEC. 4. ASIAN ELEPHANT CONSERVATION ACT OF 1997.

(a) ASIAN ELEPHANT CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE.—Section 5 of the Asian Elephant Conservation Act of 1997 (16 U.S.C. 4264) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(i) MULTIYEAR GRANTS.—

"(1) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary may award to a person who is otherwise eligible for a grant under this section a multiyear grant of up to 5 years to carry out a project that the person demonstrates is an effective, long-term conservation strategy for Asian elephants and the habitat of Asian elephants.

"(2) EFFECT.—Nothing in this subsection precludes the Secretary from awarding a grant on an annual basis."

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 8(a) of the Asian Elephant Conservation Act of 1997 (16 U.S.C. 4266(a)) is amended by striking "2019 through 2023" and inserting "2024 through 2028".

##### SEC. 5. RHINOCEROS AND TIGER CONSERVATION ACT OF 1994.

(a) RHINOCEROS AND TIGER CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE.—Section 5 of the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act of 1994 (16 U.S.C. 5304) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(g) MULTIYEAR GRANTS.—

"(1) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary may award to a person who is otherwise eligible for a grant under this section a multiyear grant of up to 5 years to carry out a project that the person demonstrates is an effective, long-term conservation strategy for rhinoceroses or tigers and the habitat of rhinoceroses or tigers.

"(2) EFFECT.—Nothing in this subsection precludes the Secretary from awarding a grant on an annual basis."

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 10(a) of the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act of 1994 (16 U.S.C. 5306(a)) is amended by striking "2019 through 2023" and inserting "2024 through 2028".

##### SEC. 6. GREAT APE CONSERVATION ACT OF 2000.

(a) MULTIYEAR GRANTS.—Section 4(j)(1) of the Great Ape Conservation Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 6303(j)(1)) is amended by inserting "of up to 5 years" after "multiyear grant".

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 6 of the Great Ape Conservation Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 6305) is amended by striking "2019 through 2023" and inserting "2024 through 2028".

##### SEC. 7. MARINE TURTLE CONSERVATION ACT OF 2004.

(a) MULTIYEAR GRANTS.—Section 4 of the Marine Turtle Conservation Act of 2004 (16 U.S.C. 6603) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(h) MULTIYEAR GRANTS.—

"(1) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary may award to a person who is otherwise eligible for a grant under this section a multiyear grant of up to 5 years to carry out a project that the person demonstrates is an effective, long-term conservation strategy for marine turtles, freshwater turtles, or tortoises and the habitat of marine turtles, freshwater turtles, or tortoises.

"(2) EFFECT.—Nothing in this subsection precludes the Secretary from awarding a grant on an annual basis."

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 7(a) of the Marine Turtle Conservation Act of 2004 (16 U.S.C. 6606(a)) is amended by striking "2019 through 2023" and inserting "2024 through 2028".

##### SEC. 8. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Annually, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the implementation of—

(1) the African Elephant Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4201 et seq.);

(2) the Asian Elephant Conservation Act of 1997 (16 U.S.C. 4261 et seq.);

(3) the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act of 1994 (16 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.);

(4) the Great Ape Conservation Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.); and