

in my efforts to secure a prosperous future for Haskell University.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

LETTERS OF RESIGNATION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the letters from Senator VANCE regarding his resignation from the Senate be printed in the RECORD.

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

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

UNITED STATES SENATE,
Washington, DC, January 9, 2025.

Hon. KAMALA D. HARRIS,
Vice President of the United States,
The White House, Washington, DC.

MADAM VICE PRESIDENT: I have enclosed a letter of resignation addressed to the Governor of Ohio, announcing my resignation from the office of United States Senator effective January 10, 2025. I would like to bring this letter to your attention in your capacity as President of the Senate.

Sincerely,

J.D. VANCE,
United States Senator,
Vice President-Elect.

UNITED STATES SENATE,
Washington, DC, January 9, 2025.

Hon. MICHAEL DEWINE,
Governor of Ohio, Columbus, Ohio.

DEAR GOVERNOR DEWINE: I hereby resign my office as a United States Senator from the State of Ohio, effective January 10, 2025. As I prepare to assume my duties as Vice President of the United States, I would like to express that it has been a tremendous honor and privilege to serve the people of Ohio in the Senate over the past two years.

Sincerely,

J.D. VANCE,
United States Senator,
Vice President-Elect.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 23

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I understand 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. 23) to impose sanctions with respect to the International Criminal Court engaged in any effort to investigate, arrest, detain, or prosecute any protected person of the United States and its allies.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

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

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER AND COMMENDING PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER FOR HIS LIFE-LONG CAREER OF PUBLIC SERVICE, HUMANITARIAN LEADERSHIP, DIPLOMACY, AND COURAGEOUS ADVOCACY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 19, submitted earlier today.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 19) honoring the life and legacy of President Jimmy Carter and commending President Jimmy Carter for his life-long career of public service, humanitarian leadership, diplomacy, and courageous advocacy.

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

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, 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 with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 19) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

ELECTORAL COUNT ACT

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I rise to mark the fact that Monday's joint session of Congress was the first time that Congress certified the results of a Presidential election with the much-needed and significant reforms in place to the Electoral Count Act that we enacted in 2022 with broad bipartisan support.

Senators from both parties came together to enact these critical updates to address ambiguities in the law that those trying to subvert the will of the American people tried to exploit 4 years ago—and to ensure that nothing like the chaos of January 6, 2021, ever happens again. Importantly these reforms ensure the electoral votes for President accurately reflect each State's election results, including raising the threshold to challenge a State's electoral votes from just one Member of the House and one Member of the Senate to one-fifth of each Chamber and preventing State legislatures from appointing electoral slates against the will of the voters. The updated law also sets deadlines for States when certifying their election results in an effort to ensure that the peaceful transfer of power is carried out in line with the requirements set forth in the Constitution.

Some have noted that while Kansas' electors met as required on December 17, 2024, and the certificate conveying Kansas' electoral votes was received by the Senate in line with the updated law, the State's certificate of ascertainment was inadvertently issued 1 day late on December 12 rather than December 11. Moving forward, it is important that States make all possible efforts to meet this deadline and the others set by the Electoral Count Reform Act to ensure the timely certification of Presidential election results and to support the administration of the peaceful transition of power that is the foundation of our democracy.

MCCRACKEN COUNTY BICENTENNIAL

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, in the early 1800s, a band of pioneers settled in Kentucky's Jackson Purchase founding what would become McCracken County. At the confluence of the Tennessee and Ohio Rivers, this settlement grew over time into a bustling center for business, agriculture, and the arts. This year, on their bicentennial anniversary, the people of McCracken County will pay tribute to two centuries of rich history and cultural heritage, and today, I am proud to join them as they mark this impressive milestone.

The county was named in tribute to Captain Virgil McCracken, a brave Kentuckian who made the ultimate sacrifice in the Battle of the River Raisin during the War of 1812. Like much of the rest of the Purchase, McCracken County was blessed with fertile land and grew, thanks to its easy access to Kentucky's inland waterways. Dry dock facilities for steam and towboats soon cropped up, while Paducah, the county seat of McCracken County since 1832, became an important railway hub. By the turn of the 19th century, McCracken County formed an integral part of Kentucky's commerce, culture, and governance.

Around this time, the county produced one of our State's most prominent political figures, Alben Barkley. The story goes that Barkley bought a "one-eyed horse named Dick" to transport him all across McCracken County during his first campaign for county attorney. But the secret to Barkley's success was less his mode of transportation than his amiable and empathetic personality. Not one to waste time, Barkley quickly found his footing on the national political stage, rising from Congressman to Senator to Senate majority leader to our Nation's 35th Vice President under President Harry Truman. Barkley continues to cast a long shadow on Kentucky's political history, something I am reminded of daily. I mean this quite literally; this son of McCracken County continues to hold a prominent place in my office, his portrait hanging on the wall of my Capitol office, alongside that of Senator John Sherman Cooper.

Another important moment in McCracken's history came in the Cold War, when the community bolstered American security at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant, which began production of enriched uranium in 1952. For many years, the plant remained the only operating uranium enrichment facility in the United States. While that work has since completed, the plant's employees remain dedicated to their jobs and the important work they perform each day to transition this facility into the future.

Today, McCracken County remains the heart of America's inland waterways and a center for creativity and folk art that serves as the gateway to west Kentucky's history and opportunity. Kentuckians from all across the Commonwealth travel to Paducah each year, the cherished home of the National Quilt Museum and other famed attractions like the Paducah Riverfront, the Paducah Railroad Museum, the Tilghman Civil War Museum, the Inland Waterways Museum, and the William Clark Market House Museum, the county's oldest museum. It is no surprise that, every year, more and more families decide to call McCracken County home. With the leadership of Judge Executive Craig Clymer, the Paducah Area Chamber of Commerce, and other dedicated Kentuckians, this vibrant community will continue to succeed in our Commonwealth. I ask my Senate colleagues to join me in honoring McCracken County and its 200 years of history and heritage.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING KARI DZIEDZIC

• Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to enter the following letter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, on behalf of Ms. KLOBUCHAR and myself. The material follows:

TO THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF KARI DZIEDZIC: Our thoughts are with you and everyone who knew and loved Kari. As we are in Washington this week, we will be submitting this letter to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in Kari's honor.

Like all of you, we were both lucky enough to call Kari a friend and saw firsthand how she met people where they are to get big things done for our state. She governed with strength, calm, and grace, always seeking solutions over soundbites.

Serving others came naturally to Kari—you could say it was in her blood. Her dad, the late Walt Dziedzic, was a Minneapolis legend in his own right who taught her the importance of public service. She carried those lessons with her, emerging from the rough-and-tumble world of old-school Northeast Minneapolis politics and carving out her own path as a leader who earned the respect of leaders from both sides of the aisle.

It was because of her ability to listen to others, bridge divides, and focus on results that her colleagues chose her to serve as Majority Leader. Her leadership improved lives across the state. And although her tragic cancer diagnosis forced her to step down from her position last year, her impact will be felt for generations to come:

Every new parent who takes paid leave to care for their child can thank Kari Dziedzic.

Every worker who has taken earned sick and safe time can thank Kari Dziedzic.

And every kid who no longer has to go hungry at school can thank Kari Dziedzic.

In describing her approach to public service, Kari quoted her former boss the late Senator Paul Wellstone in saying, "we all do better when we all do better." That principle was clear in everything she did, and there is no question that we are all better off for having had her in our lives.

Our state is better because of Kari Dziedzic. As you come together today to celebrate her life, know that our prayers are with you at this difficult time.

Sincerely,

AMY KLOBUCHAR,
United States Senator.
TINA SMITH,
United States Senator.●

REMEMBERING MARY MURPHY

• Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to enter the following letter into the Congressional Record, on behalf of Ms. KLOBUCHAR and myself. The material follows:

TO THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF MARY MURPHY: Our thoughts are with you and everyone who knew and loved Mary. As we are in Washington this week, we will be submitting this letter to the Congressional Record in Mary's honor.

Mary was a beloved daughter of Northern Minnesota who went from her childhood home in Hermantown all the way to the State Capitol, where she would go on to become the longest-serving woman in the history of the Minnesota House.

Before that, though, she was a social studies and history teacher, and she carried that spirit with her to the state legislature. Her work was proof that history is not only a record of what has been, but a roadmap for what can be. Having grown up under the New Deal during the Great Depression, she saw firsthand that public service had the power to lift people up. Throughout her nearly half a century in the state legislature, Mary fought to do exactly that.

They may not know it, but countless Minnesotans have felt her impact in one way or another:

Every barber, waiter, and bartender who earns the full state minimum wage can thank Mary Murphy.

Every student at Fond du Lac Tribal College can thank Mary Murphy.

And every kid who participates in Head Start, ECFE, or Youthworks can thank Mary Murphy.

That's barely scratching the surface. Mary improved the lives of Minnesotans from all walks of life—and for years, she did it while often being one of the only women at the table in Northern Minnesota. Because of her leadership, that has changed, but in so many ways, she was ahead of her time. As her friend and colleague Erin Murphy has said, Mary "was a trailblazer in every way that you could imagine."

Our state is better because of Mary. As you come together today to celebrate her life, know that our prayers are with you at this difficult time.

Sincerely,

AMY KLOBUCHAR,
United States Senator.
TINA SMITH,
United States Senator.●

TRIBUTE TO ROBIN PHILIPS

• Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Robin Philips, who is

retiring after over two decades of leadership at the Advocates For Human Rights.

Robin was on the organization's delegation to document violence against women in Romania in 1994. She then founded the Advocates' Women's Human Rights Program, one of the first in the United States. Robin's work has been revolutionary in ensuring recognition for women's human rights as human rights and developing a partner-based methodology.

The Advocates is committed to human rights work built on partnerships with, and led by, individuals impacted by human rights violations. Volunteers are at the heart of the Advocates' work, with thousands of supporters contributing their time to legal services, fact-finding, advocacy, outreach, and operational support.

Under Robin's leadership, the Advocates has provided pro bono legal counsel to more than 7,000 noncitizen victims of persecution, torture, trafficking, prolonged detention, and family violence. She has made Minnesota a leader in anti-human trafficking efforts by advocating for our Safe Harbor For Sexually Exploited Youth Act and for expanding the State's criminal statute to protect more people from labor trafficking and provide permanent State funding for victims.

As executive director, Robin has also greenlit transitional justice projects in Peru, Sierra Leone, and Liberia. She supervised work with partners worldwide to abolish the death penalty. More than two-thirds of countries in the world have now abolished the death penalty in law or in practice. Robin has also been deeply committed to the Advocates' Nepal School Project, which has provided education as an alternative to child labor, serving over 1,000 low-income Nepali students. These achievements are highlights of Robin's impact on our State and world.

Congratulations on your well-earned retirement, Robin, and best of luck in your next chapter.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:08 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 23. An act to impose sanctions with respect to the International Criminal Court engaged in any effort to investigate, arrest, detain, or prosecute any protected person of the United States and its allies.

The message further announced that pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 2001, and the order of the House of January 3, 2025, the Speaker appoints the following Members to the House Office Building Commission to serve with himself: Mr. SCALISE of Louisiana and Mr. JEFFRIES of New York.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time: