

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor(s) will be determined from approved vendors. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Ukraine.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

RECOGNIZING MILITARY RECOVERY RESPONSE TO HURRICANE HELENE

Mr. BUDD. Madam President, today I recognize National Guard and Active-Duty troops who came to the aid of North Carolinians following the terrible devastation caused by Hurricane Helene.

I want to particularly thank the North Carolina National Guard for their leadership, as well as their brothers and sisters in arms from 18 States who answered the call to provide life-saving aid when our State was in need. This includes guardsmen from Georgia, Connecticut, Iowa, Kentucky, Florida, Indiana, Missouri, Mississippi, Pennsylvania, Ohio, South Carolina, New York, Minnesota, West Virginia, Maryland, Virginia, and Alabama. I would also like to thank the Active-Duty servicemembers from the XVIII Airborne Corps at Ft. Liberty, the 82nd Airborne Division, and those from Ft. Campbell's 101st Airborne Division who supported the Guard and communities across western North Carolina in both rescue and recovery operations.

To all those who came to western North Carolina's aid, you have my sincere thanks for your service and sacrifice. On behalf of the Senate, I thank you for your bravery and continued service.

REMEMBERING DONALD H. TURNER, JR.

Mr. WELCH. Madam President, Donald H. Turner, Jr., epitomized public service.

Don grew up in Milton, VT, a town of less than 11,000 people. When he was a boy, it had half that number. Don's family owned the local bowling alley and a construction company. His family's outsized presence in the town may be why he saw the entire community as family.

Don signed up as a volunteer firefighter at 16 and remained involved with the department for his entire life, serving 14 years as chief. On my last visit to Milton in March 2023, we discussed the challenges facing small fire departments and rescue squads, input that directly influenced legislation I introduced to reimburse emergency medical services providers for care they provide patients who are not transported to a hospital.

For the past 7 years, Don served as town manager in his hometown. If the

rescue squad was short a person to respond to a call, he would leave his office and hop in the ambulance.

Prior to serving in town government, Don represented his community in the Vermont House of Representatives for 13 years, including 8 as the minority leader. Perhaps that is why when he assumed leadership of his hometown government, he made his and the town staff's motto, "Get stuff done."

And he did.

A new town garage, something in the works before the birth of the town's current selectboard chair, was wrapped up in 2 years under Don's leadership. It is now named for him, with "Getting stuff done" written in large letters along one wall.

He also kept up the pressure on a transformative road project for the town, working through multiple issues to get the project underway in the past year.

Infrastructure is the most basic part of a town manager's job. Don went beyond that. A lifelong Republican, he led efforts in the town to examine its practices and policies with an eye toward making sure they were fair and allowed everyone to participate. This led to changes in the town's recreation department, where Don wanted to remove barriers to participation, including income or disabilities that might previously have kept children and adults on the sidelines. He championed an annual inclusion festival, in which he was an eager and proud participant.

In 2019, the Milton Public Library hosted a drag queen story time. When the event drew backlash, Don defended the library, attended the event, and had his photo taken with the drag queens.

When the tree topper was damaged ahead of the annual holiday tree lighting, Don made a new one in his garage.

No business in town was too small to receive Don's support. If there was a ribbon to be cut or a grand opening that needed attendees, he was there, regardless of the day or time.

When the high school needed someone to transport supplies for an event, Don pulled up in his truck.

His dedication to his town earned him the nickname "Mr. Milton."

Don believed that, "If you look after people, they will look after you." He lived that belief, setting an example, not only for his community, but for all of us who are committed to public service.

He passed away on Saturday, November 30, after a brief battle with cancer. Don was 60 years old.

Margaret and I extend our condolences to his wife Gail and his daughters Emily, Hillary, and Erin, as well as their families and loved ones. And I also give comfort to the Milton community, who lost a neighbor, friend, and important member of their community.

Donald H. Turner, Jr., will be missed by many in Vermont.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO HAROLD JOHNSON

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam President, I rise today to congratulate Harold Johnson of Walnut Ridge for his decades of service to memorialize and champion Arkansas' legacy in aviation history.

Johnson was born in Saline County where he fostered an interest in aviation from a young age. This passion led him to become a pilot and flight instructor and, later, a commercial pilot for 18 years.

His experience in the skies was perhaps most notable for a harrowing encounter while serving as a copilot during the hijacking of Southern Airways Flight 49 on November 10, 1972. During this ordeal that lasted over 30 hours and spanned the U.S., Canada, and Cuba, Harold was able to ensure all passengers landed safely, despite having been shot in the arm.

After his retirement from commercial flight, Johnson channeled his continued love for aviation into the creation of an aviation shrine in Walnut Ridge, AR, which will celebrate its 26th anniversary on March 2, 2025.

As president and founder of the Wings of Honor Museum, he began a new mission to preserve the stories of Arkansas veterans through reflection and education by repurposing the Walnut Ridge Army Flying school and surrounding historical buildings.

The museum's growth and success are a direct result of Johnson's efforts and desire to inspire members of his community and far beyond. Wings of Honor is home to hundreds of aviation cadet class books, airfield records, aerial navigation charts, and the biographies of over 21,000 Arkansans who served in WWII. Beyond the numerous artifacts, aircraft, and unique visual displays, it is his tangible love of learning and keeping history alive that will continue to leave an impression on guests and visitors.

From his days as a pilot to his natural role as a community leader and teacher, Johnson's dedication and impact have been celebrated widely. He was inducted into the Arkansas Aviation Historical Society Hall of Fame in 2017 and was named the Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce 2024 Man of the Year.

I thank him for his years of stewardship that generated such tremendous success for the Wings of Honor Museum and the Walnut Ridge community and wish him all the best with continuing to prepare a new generation of leadership to carry on that important legacy.●

TRIBUTE TO GERALD JOHNSON

• Mr. PETERS. Madam President, I rise today to honor an accomplished and highly regarded leader in Michigan's automotive industry, Mr. Gerald Johnson, executive vice president of