our Federal agencies, so that our Nation can be protected and the government can serve the people. That is what the people deserve.

## RECOGNIZING THE SIXTH BIENNIAL JAMAICAN DIASPORA CONFERENCE

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, today, I want to take a moment to recognize the important relationship between the United States and Jamaica and the role Jamaican Americans play in promoting trade and development between our two nations.

The United States has a robust and important relationship with Jamaica. President Obama's trip to Jamaica in April 2015 illustrated that we see Jamaica as a key regional leader and that we have a strong interest in strengthening our bilateral security relationship with Jamaica.

The United States is Jamaica's leading partner in trade, chief source of foreign direct investment, FDI, and home to the largest Jamaican diaspora in the world. The more than 1 million Jamaicans in the United States make crucial contributions to the Jamaican economy through remittances and support for friends and family still in Jamaica. Proud Jamaicans like Delaware's Lorraine Badley connect business leaders with opportunities for investment and trade, host ministers and other Jamaican officials, and strengthen community connections in both countries.

From Bob Marley, who first emigrated from Jamaica to my home State, to former NBA basketball player Patrick Ewing and former Secretary of State Collin Powell, first- and second-generation Jamaican Americans have made significant and lasting contributions to our economy, sports, art, and political system.

The Jamaican Government recognizes the critical role Jamaicans living abroad play in Jamaica's economic advancement, and this week they are hosting the Sixth Biennial Jamaica Diaspora Conference in Montego Bay. The conference brings together members of the Jamaican diaspora from the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, and other countries to build connections and boost diaspora investment in the Jamaican economy. I would like to commend the Jamaican Government for their efforts to diversify their economy and become a regional leader in trade and investment.

The Diaspora Conference taking place this week will leverage that support into targeted investments to grow Jamaica's infrastructure, ports, and logistics capacity to make it the central hub for the transport of goods between Latin America and the United States.

As the Jamaica Diaspora Conference draws to a close, the United States looks forward to seeing new partnerships between the Jamaicans and the Jamaican diaspora emerge to further an economic development agenda that will result in mutual growth and benefit both our countries.

## TRIBUTE TO SISTER MARGARITA BREWER

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize a 2015 Northern Kentucky University Lincoln Award recipient, my friend and a community leader, Sister Margarita M. Brewer.

Sister Margarita has dedicated her life to serving the Latino community in Greater Cincinnati. Originally from Panama, Sister Margarita has taken an active role in programs assisting the underserved in her local community as well as in Central America.

Sister Margarita founded the English Language Learning—ELL—Foundation, Inc., in 2003 and continues to serve as its president, working with Cincinnati public schools to help English language learners become successful in their academic lives while fostering their cultural identities.

I had the privilege of being one of Sister Margarita's ELL tutors while serving in the House of Representatives. I had to stop tutoring when I was appointed U.S. Trade Representative, but during my time as a tutor, I had the chance to see her good work in action. More recently, my wife Jane has worked as an ELL tutor and shares my admiration for Sister Margarita and her service. Jane was honored to receive the English Language Learning Foundation Tutor of the Year Award in 2014.

In collaboration with Latino Programs and Services' English Language Learners Program at Northern Kentucky University, she also helped develop NKY's Fun with Science Camp, exposing students to all fields of science through hands-on learning activities.

Additionally, Sister Margarita has been involved with the Crossroad Health Center, Family Service of Cincinnati, and Christian Community Health Services.

I join the community in congratulating Sister Margarita, who has served the people of Greater Cincinnati and Ohio with distinction.

## ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

• Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I wish to honor Lincoln University of Jefferson City, MO, on the 125th anniversary of the signing of the Second Morrill Act of 1890, which provided Lincoln University and many other historically Black colleges and universities with land-grant institution status. Lincoln University has provided student-centered, post secondary education opportunities to countless students from a variety of backgrounds for more than a century.

On January 14, 1866, Lincoln University, at the time called the Lincoln Institute, was founded by soldiers and officers of the 62nd United States Colored Infantry, following their service in the Civil War. After its incorporation and the establishment of its board of trustees, the institution opened its doors to the first class in its history on September 17, 1866. Lincoln Institute moved to its current campus in 1871, where it would eventually gain land-grant university status under the Second Morrill Act of 1890.

Since then, Lincoln University, which changed its name from the Lincoln Institute in 1921, has continued to provide a wide variety of educational specializations with over 50 bachelor's degree programs along with master's degree programs in education, business, and the social sciences. Outside of its well-known, grant-funded research programs, Lincoln has also distinguished itself with its popular nursing program and state-of-the-art aquaculture facilities.

Lincoln University is an outstanding and diverse educational institution that continues to impact future generations by looking forward without ever forgetting its roots. I congratulate Lincoln University on more than a century of successes.•

## RECOGNIZING THE CARSON CITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S 70TH ANNIVERSARY

• Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today, I wish to recognize the 70th anniversary of the Carson City Chamber of Commerce, an important entity to Northern Nevada. I am proud to honor this chamber that gives so much support to local businesses and continues to fight to grow the capital city's economy and job market.

Growing up in Carson City and spending a lot of time working in my dad's automotive shop, I learned the importance of a day's work and what it took for my father to keep his business. No doubt, Carson City's businesses—small and large—play an important role in our State's growth.

It is through the hard work of the Carson City Chamber of Commerce that the business community continues to strive and maintain a high quality of life for Carson City residents. Even when Nevada's economy took a difficult turn, the Carson City Chamber of Commerce was there every step of the way to lift local businesses back up. It helped owners adapt to an adverse economic climate through innovation, creativity, and ingenuity. To say this chamber has had a positive impact on Northern Nevada would be an understatement. The strong foundation it has built will be felt for years to come.

Aside from helping local businesses expand and thrive, the Carson City Chamber of Commerce also offers Carson City's entrepreneurs networking opportunities, social functions, and educational programs. It is highly involved throughout the community, gathering volunteers to clean and revamp areas across the city, as well as supporting the sheriff and district attorney's offices. The chamber has 11 directors and 5 committee executives, all

dedicated to making Nevada's capital the best it can be. I am thankful for their leadership and for the great things they are doing for businesses in Northern Nevada.

For the past 70 years, the Carson City Chamber of Commerce has demonstrated professionalism, commitment to excellence, and true dedication to Nevada. Without the hard work of those who have served this chamber, Carson City would not have developed to be the city it is today. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Carson City Chamber of Commerce on its 70th anniversary and in thanking it for all it does to press on and find ways to unleash the Nevada comeback.●

## CONGRATULATING SERGEANT JON WRIGHT, RETIRED

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today, I wish to congratulate SGT Jon Wright, Retired, on receiving a Bronze Star with V-Device for valor, honoring his heroic actions while serving this great Nation. It gives me great pleasure to recognize Mr. Wright for both his bravery and his accomplishments during his time with the U.S. Army.

On March 24, 2010, Mr. Wright, who was serving in Afghanistan, led and acted as security for a squad of engineers and explosive ordnance disposal team members working to diminish improvised explosive devices, IEDs. Soldiers from Wright's squad noticed three bystanders, one of whom threw a grenade, landing between Mr. Wright and another sergeant. Mr. Wright quickly responded by picking up the grenade and throwing it away from his group, ultimately saving the lives of those around him. His lifesaving actions were heroic and selfless and remain invaluable to this country.

I extend my deepest gratitude to Mr. Wright for his courageous contributions to the United States of America and to freedom-loving nations around the world. His service to his country and his bravery earn him a place among the outstanding men and women who have valiantly defended our nation.

His commitment to helping those around him, as well as serving the country, demonstrates his unwavering selfless character. His actions represent only the greatest of Nevada's values, including a sense of community and an obligation to help others.

As a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, I recognize that Congress has a responsibility not only to honor these brave individuals who serve our Nation but also to ensure they are cared for when they return home. I remain committed to upholding this promise for our veterans and servicemembers in Nevada and throughout the Nation. Mr. Wright's sacrifice warrants only the greatest respect and care in return.

Mr. Wright continues to serve his community and now lives in Lovelock with his wife and three children. He retired from the U.S. Army nearly 4 years ago and earned a degree in environmental science from American Military University. He now works for a mining company and the local youth football league.

Throughout his tenure, Mr. Wright demonstrated professionalism, commitment to excellence, and dedication to the highest standards of the U.S. Army. I am both humbled and honored by his service and am proud to call him a fellow Nevadan. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Jon Wright on his much-deserved accolade and wish him well in all of his future endeavors.●

## RECOGNIZING DELTA FUEL

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, small businesses are often vital in driving rural economies. The success of these entities provides crucial job creation and economic opportunity—especially among low-income and minority populations. This week I am proud to recognize Delta Fuel of Ferriday, LA, as Small Business of the Week.

In 1977, a small bulk fuel distributor serving ranchers and farmers was founded in the heart of the Louisiana and Mississippi Delta region. Today, Delta Fuel has grown to employ over 65 workers between their eight operations—7 in Louisiana and 1 in Mississippi—serving a cross-section of the agriculture, construction, aviation, marine, government, manufacturing, automotive, emergency response, and trucking industries with a variety of fuels, lubes, tanks, trailers, oil stations, and lube equipment. In a State known for its robust energy and natural resource industries, Delta Fuel's reputation for dependability, reliability, and exceptional service standards has helped it become one of the fastest growing distributors in the southeast.

In rural east Louisiana, Clint Vegas, president of Delta Fuel, has led the company to exponential growth, earning the company numerous recognitions as one of the most successful Hispanic-owned businesses in the United States. Vegas' business skills have led to crucial job creation for the region. Delta Fuel's success can be attributed in part to their being located in a Historically Underutilized Business Zone, or HUBZone. The Small Business Administration's HUBZone program was created to spur economic activity in economically disadvantaged areas—helping small businesses in urban and rural communities gain preferential access to government contracting opportunities. By using the resources at hand, including the HUBZone program, Delta Fuel has been able to expand, resulting in the addition of numerous jobs and service centers throughout the rural east Louisiana region.

Congratulations again to Delta Fuel for being selected as Small Business of the Week. Thank you for your continued commitment to creating quality jobs and advancing economic opportunity in East Louisiana.●

## MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:51 a.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 bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2505. An act to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require the annual reporting of data on enrollment in Medicare Advantage plans.

H.R. 2507. An act to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish an annual rulemaking schedule for payment rates under Medicare Advantage.

H.R. 2570. An act to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act with respect to the treatment of patient encounters in ambulatory surgical centers in determining meaningful EHR use, establish a demonstration program requiring the utilization of Value-Based Insurance Design to demonstrate that reducing the copayments or coinsurance charged to Medicare beneficiaries for selected high-value prescription medications and clinical services can increase their utilization and ultimately improve clinical outcomes and lower health care expenditures, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2582. An act to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to delay the authority to terminate Medicare Advantage contracts for MA plans failing to achieve minimum quality ratings, to make improvements to the Medicare Adjustment risk adjustment system, and for other purposes.

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At 1:23 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2146) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow Federal law enforcement officers, firefighters, and air traffic controllers to make penalty-free withdrawals from governmental plans after age 50, and for other purposes, with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate.

## MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 2505. An act to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require the annual reporting of data on enrollment in Medicare Advantage plans; to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 2507. An act to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish an annual rulemaking schedule for payment rates under Medicare Advantage; to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 2570. An act to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act with respect to the treatment of patient encounters in ambulatory surgical centers in determining meaningful EHR use, establish a demonstration program requiring the utilization of Value-Based Insurance Design to demonstrate that reducing the copayments or coinsurance charged to Medicare beneficiaries for selected high-value prescription medications and clinical services can increase their utilization and ultimately improve clinical outcomes and lower health care expenditures