

Burk, Paul Garrison, Ryan Hayes, and Will Glover donated their time and expertise to help those less fortunate.

Over 19 days, these men built an electric distribution system that extended 4 miles to the agricultural communities of Jolom Ijix and Zapotal. Their work connected homes to an electric grid powered by a small hydroelectric plant, helping bring electricity to these communities for the first time. Electricity plays a critical role in providing health care, education, access to clean water, and economic opportunity, and I am proud to have these Arkansans help the people of Jolom Ijix and Zapotal along the path towards long-lasting growth.

These 12 men and the many other volunteers from electric co-ops in Arkansas have traveled to Guatemala for rural electrification projects in recent years. Their compassion and spirit represent the best of our State. As a result of their efforts, the residents of these Guatemalan communities will see an immeasurable improvement in their quality of life. These volunteers, like others before them, have created a lasting impact on regions that need help the most.●

NATIVE AMERICAN CODE TALKERS

● Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I wish to recognize four American heroes who exemplify the best Montana has to offer: Samson Birdinground, Cyril Not Afraid, Barney Old Coyote and Henry Old Coyote.

These men selflessly served our country during World War II by offering up the Apsaalooké Crow, language as part of a national “code-talk” program. This program used the unique style of several Native American languages to transmit and receive military intelligence, providing crucial communication to forces overseas.

These four brave gentlemen sacrificed much to defend their homeland during the war. Using skilled knowledge of the Apsaalooké; tongue, they worked closely with American defense forces. The beautiful complexity of the Crow language allowed it to be processed without fear of enemy breach, leading the program to successfully save countless lives.

All four heroes were recently awarded Congress’ most prestigious honor: the Congressional Gold Medal. Their families will ceremoniously accept the medals on behalf of their forefathers this week.

Apsaalooké, or Crow, Nation has a rich heritage of members going above and beyond the call of duty, and these men are decidedly no exception. We Montanans are proud of our diverse heritage, and it is truly an honor to celebrate individuals who so humbly embody the spirit of patriotism.●

RECOGNIZING DR. PAUL HOMMERT

● Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, I wish to recognize Dr. Paul Hommert on his

retirement. I have had the pleasure of working with Paul on a number of occasions during his tenure with Sandia National Laboratories. I greatly appreciate and respect his professionalism, knowledge, and dedication as the director of Sandia National Laboratories and president of Sandia Corporation. Paul has given a great deal to this Nation and to its defense. The importance of his work directly involves the complex threats facing our country focusing on national security and technology innovation.

Paul began his career with Sandia as a member of the technical staff in 1976 and then gradually moved to positions of increased responsibility in a broad range of programs and management assignments. He initially led programs supporting energy research, and from the mid- to late-1990s, he was director of engineering sciences. Later in his career, Dr. Hommert became the Director of Research and Applied Science at the Atomic Weapons Establishment in the United Kingdom, where he led the science and engineering organization responsible for the United Kingdom’s nuclear deterrent. From 2003 to 2006, Dr. Hommert led the Applied Physics Division at Los Alamos National Laboratory. The division was responsible for nuclear weapon design and assessment, weapon performance code development, and weapon science support. Dr. Hommert returned to Sandia to become vice president of Sandia’s California site, a position he held until 2009, when he transitioned to Sandia’s main site in Albuquerque to become Executive Vice President and Deputy Laboratories Director for the Nuclear Weapons Program. In July 2010, Dr. Hommert became the Director of Sandia National Laboratories and President of Sandia Corporation.

Throughout his distinguished career, Paul has received numerous awards, such as the Outstanding Alumnus Award for Professional Excellence from Purdue’s School of Mechanical Engineering, and a Distinguished Engineering Alumni Award from Purdue’s College of Engineering. In addition, Dr. Hommert was named Laboratory Director of the Year in 2013 by the Federal Laboratory Consortium for his support of Sandia’s technology transfer activities. This award recognizes federal laboratories and their industry partners for outstanding technology transfer efforts and has become one of the most prestigious honors in technology transfer. Paul has represented our country with integrity and honor, and it is my privilege to thank him for his contribution to our nation’s security. I wish him best of luck, continued happiness, and offer my congratulations on his retirement.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:02 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. 160. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on medical devices.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 160. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on medical devices.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-1973. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Sethoxydim; Pesticide Tolerances” (FRL No. 9928-20) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 12, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1974. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Di-n-butyl carbonate; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance” (FRL No. 9928-63-OCSP) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 12, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1975. A communication from the Administrator, Rural Housing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Reserve Account” (RIN0575-AC99) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 12, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1976. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Vice Admiral Michael J. Connor, United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of vice admiral on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1977. A communication from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Under Secretary of