

Montanans that provide structure and consistency to youngsters in need are deserving of our support. When those Montanans are like J.P. and Tiara and simply do what is needed in a humble and gracious manner, their service can inspire others. Thank you, J.P. and Tiara, for all you have done and are still doing to help others.●

RECOGNIZING HYDROHOIST

● Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, small businesses play an integral role in Oklahoma's economy. They consist of over 52 percent of all employees in Oklahoma. Additionally, within Oklahoma, over 84 percent of all exports come from small businesses. Today I have the distinct honor of recognizing one of the many successful small businesses in my home State of Oklahoma for National Small Business Week. While there are many businesses worthy of recognition, I am particularly proud of HydroHoist.

For over 53 years, HydroHoist has been not only a leader but an originator and industry innovator of the market for boat lifts, personal watercraft—PWC—ports, and boat protection packages. Their products range from 900-pound drive-on docking platforms for PWCs, to lifts with the holding capacity for 130,000 pound watercraft. HydroHoist launched half a century ago by an Oklahoma marina owner in Grand Lake, OK. By 1971, the company moved into an old World War II munitions plant in Claremore, OK, where it is still located today. HydroHoist's technology revolutionized the boating industry, and remarkably, some of these original hoists are still in use today. HydroHoist has expanded far beyond America's borders to international waters, too.

I want to congratulate and thank president and CEO Mick Webber of HydroHoist for his outstanding and devoted work in creating a shining business model with over 4 distribution warehouses and over 600 dealers throughout the world. Mr. Webber's dedication to making these products in America should not only make Oklahomans proud, but all Americans. HydroHoist's success should be an example for all businesses, and I am proud to recognize their hard work and dedication.●

RECOGNIZING RED RIVER BREWING COMPANY

● Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, as a member of the Small Business Committee, it is my pleasure to recognize Red River Brewing Company from Shreveport, LA, as the Small Business of the Day for National Small Business Week. Small businesses like Red River Brewing Company are the backbone of this country. According to the U.S. Small Business Administration, U.S. small businesses employed 56.8 million people—or 48 percent of the private workforce in 2013. Louisiana small

businesses employed 903,281 people, which made up 53.5 percent of the private workforce.

Red River Brewing Company, founded by entrepreneurs Jared Beville, Robert McGuire, and Beau Raines, began like many great small businesses do: as a hobby in Jared's garage. The group decided to turn their home brewing hobby into a business in the fall of 2013, becoming the first brewery in Shreveport since Prohibition. Red River is now a thriving small business that employs more than a dozen employees and offers locally brewed craft beer to the people of Shreveport, LA, and beyond. What makes their beer unique is the Louisiana twist they put on their products. The beer is designed to be indicative of the culture and climate of Louisiana. In addition, Red River often names their beers after the cultural and historic aspects of Louisiana. Session 18 IPA, for example, got its name from Louisiana being the 18th State in the United States.

The fruition of hard work and passion has been the catalyst for many small businesses around the country, including Red River Brewing Company. Those who are able to create successful small businesses create economic stability for their families and their communities, and in doing so, they are carrying out the American dream. I would like to extend my sincerest congratulations to Red River Brewing Company on being recognized during the 2017 National Small Business Week. You make our great State proud, and I look forward to seeing your future success.●

TRIBUTE TO CINDY TURCOT

● Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Cindy Turcot and congratulate her on her term as the chair of the ESOP Association. Cindy has been committed to advancing the employee ownership model in Vermont and around the country. For the last 2 years, Cindy served as chair of the association, working to promote the interests of employee stock ownership plan, ESOP, companies across the country.

In my State of Vermont, we have seen firsthand the many benefits that employee ownership can bring to businesses and employees. Study after study has shown that employee ownership has been proven to spur employment, increase productivity, grow sales, and raise wages. Importantly, data from the General Social Surveys from 2002 to 2014 shows that employee-owned companies have layoff rates that are four to eight times less than conventionally owned companies.

Cindy has been a vital ally in the efforts to expand broad-based employee ownership and bolster middle-class jobs in our communities. As chair, Cindy advocated for the ESOP business model and the benefits of employee ownership all across the country. I know many in the employee ownership community are so appreciative of Cindy's energy,

motivation, and empowerment. Over the last 2 years, Cindy dedicated much of her time and energy to expanding broad based employee ownership to help create a sustainable economy that benefits all of us.

In addition to her work as chair of the ESOP Association, Cindy serves as board treasurer of the Vermont Employee Ownership Center. VEOC has provided numerous Vermont companies with assistance in transitioning to employee ownership, and Cindy has been a crucial resource in those efforts. As we continue to work together to help the employee ownership model realize its true potential, I know Cindy will continue to be an invaluable partner. ●

REMEMBERING GENERAL AMEDEO C. MEROLLA

● Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, today I join so many Rhode Islanders in honoring the life, service, and gifts of GEN Amedeo C. Merolla. Armie Merolla served his Nation and the State of Rhode Island with distinction, including service in the Marine Corps and more than 30 years in the Rhode Island Army National Guard, where he rose to the rank of brigadier general. He earned numerous awards and decorations, including the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal, and the Rhode Island Cross for Valor. A graduate of Harvard Law School, Armie was also an accomplished jurist. In the Guard, he served in the Judge Advocate General Corps. He also worked in public service, as assistant solicitor for the city of Providence and legal counsel to multiple Rhode Island State agencies and offices, as well as to my colleague Congressman James Langevin. He eventually established his own firm, Merolla, Accetturo & Lough, where he practiced alongside two of his children until the time of his death.

Armie touched many people's lives through his generous volunteer work in his community, from his church to the Boys and Girls Clubs to the Knights of Columbus, but perhaps his greatest achievement was raising four children with his wife of 64 years, Kitty. My thoughts and prayers are with Armie's family in this time, as we celebrate his good works and kind spirit.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 9:54 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. 1665. An act to ensure that Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency considers severe local impact in making a recommendation to the President for a major disaster declaration.

H.R. 1678. An act to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act concerning the statute of limitations for actions to recover disaster or emergency assistance payments, and for other purposes.