

more than a century, Estes Park has been the primary entrance point into one of our national treasures, Rocky Mountain National Park. Millions of tourists visit the national park each year, beginning their journey in Estes Park.

Before the formal incorporation of the town, many Native American tribes spent time in the region, including the Utes, Arapaho, Shoshone, and the Comanche. Settlers began to come to the area when President Abraham Lincoln signed the Homestead Act into law in 1862, encouraging them to travel West and explore unchartered territory. In 1863, Joel and Patsy Estes traveled from Kentucky, in search of fertile land to begin their cattle ranch in Colorado, and they found it in the area that later bore their name. By 1874, many more settlers had traveled out West and made Estes Park their home.

The original Coloradans living in Estes Park were resourceful and ingenious, building schools and homes from the ground up in this rugged, mountainous terrain. The present Coloradans living in Estes Park are also resilient—surviving floods and severe damages to the town and surrounding area in 1982 and again in 2013. Following the devastation of the flooding in 2013, U.S. Highway 34, one of the main roads into Estes, was in need of extreme restoration. Through bipartisan efforts in both the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate, the Colorado delegation was able to ensure this highway received the funding it required to keep the gateway to Rocky Mountain National Park open.

I would like to congratulate the Town of Estes Park on this exciting milestone, and I look forward to the town's many more years of prosperity and success.●

#### TRIBUTE TO THOMAS CERRA

● Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Thomas Cerra, a noble veteran, an inspiration to his community, and a beloved member of my home State of West Virginia.

Growing up in the northern panhandle of our beloved State, it is ingrained in each West Virginian that you have to work hard for what you want in life. Tom is indeed one of the hardest working men I know. Early on, he worked odd jobs during summers and after school and learned the value of a customer service mentality.

Prior to joining the military, Tom worked on the B&O Railroad, drove a truck for a meat-packing plant and worked for the State road, while also attending night school for industrial drafting.

In 1959, Tom joined the U.S. Army to serve his country and was honorably discharged in 1962. This experience only added to Tom's outstanding character, as he continued to develop his leadership skills and discipline. His service will never be forgotten.

One of my favorite stories about Tom is that, once he was discharged from the Army, he returned to the YMCA where he had trained and instructed for many years. It was the year of West Virginia's centennial celebration, and the community hosted the Mister West Virginia Centennial Weightlifting Contest. Tom won the top award in the 181-pound lifting class and the physique contest and was crowned "Mister West Virginia Centennial." Throughout all of his training, Tom never missed a day of work and still had time to get his weightlifting trophy engraved 2 weeks ahead of time. His sharp wit and sense of humor only add to his unforgettable character.

Tom worked all over the country, but found an opportunity to come home to Wheeling when he applied for a job with then-Ohio Valley Builders Exchange. After a few short years with the company, he convinced the board of directors to change the name of the company to more accurately define what they did, and so it became the Ohio Valley Construction Employers Council, Inc. Tom then led the charge to form a labor management organization in order to promote the contractors and building tradesmen to their customers. The group adjusted the name to Project BEST: Building Efficiency by Striving Together and was incorporated in 1982.

Project BEST is now comprised of hundreds of contractors and thousands of building trades craftsmen and apprentices in the Upper Ohio Valley region. This group is known for providing annual scholarships to area universities and colleges, promoting workplace safety and productivity, and provides a forum for the discussion of industry matters with all those involved with economic development endeavors.

What remained the same throughout the years was Tom's dedication to his parents, Christine and Thomas, and his brother, Jimmy, who always provided him with unwavering support throughout his career. It is my hope that he enjoys his well-deserved retirement with his loved ones—including his son, Bryan, his niece, Tina Marie, his grandchildren, Makayla, Angelina, and Wyatt, and his entire family.

Tom is the epitome of the American Dream. He worked hard his entire life and always stroved to give back to his community after he served his country. It is my great privilege to recognize his accomplishments and to extend thanks, on behalf of all West Virginians, for his unwavering service.●

#### TRIBUTE TO LUCIANO "LUCKY" VARELA

● Mr. UDALL. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to longtime New Mexico State Representative Luciano "Lucky" Varela, who passed away on September 2, 2017. Lucky served the State of New Mexico for over five decades—first as a financial expert for the State finance department and then as a respected

legislator in the New Mexico House of Representatives. We will remember Lucky as a champion for all of New Mexico, for his expertise and legislative skills, and also for his kindness, civility, and great heart.

Lucky was born to Celestino and Catalina Varela in Pecos, NM, on February 17, 1935. Growing up during and right after the Great Depression, his early jobs including hauling firewood to miners working near Pecos. He developed a strong work ethic and a love of the outdoors. Those early experiences informed his work in the State legislature, including his effort to keep New Mexico rivers and streams open to sportsmen and recreationists.

Lucky graduated from Pecos High School and joined the U.S. Army in 1957. He served 2 years in the Army and 6 years in the Army Reserve. He graduated from the College of Santa Fe with a degree in accounting. He then earned a law degree from LaSalle University.

Lucky worked as a comptroller for the New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration from the early 1960s to the mid-1980s. There he got to know the State's finances inside and out—knowledge that would be key to his success in the legislature.

After retiring from State government, Lucky couldn't sit still. He ran for a seat in the New Mexico House of Representatives and represented District 48 in Santa Fe for 30 years, from 1987 to 2016.

Lucky's knowledge of State finances was legion. It is said that he knew State agency finances better than the agency heads. He served as chair of the legislative finance committee and deputy chair of the house appropriations and finance committee. Lucky understood the numbers, but just as importantly, he understood the people behind those numbers—their struggles, hopes, and dreams. He championed public education, seniors, State employees, and technology, fighting for increases funding for public schools, higher salaries for teachers, raises for State employees, and modernizing State government technology.

During the fiscal crisis of 2009, Lucky is credited with singlehandedly developing the budget that balanced the budget and saved State finances. This ensured schools stayed open, State employees were not laid off, and State police got paid.

One of his final accomplishments was a 2013 bill he cosponsored to overhaul the Public Employees Retirement Association pension fund—helping make sure State retirees are secure in their retirement.

Lucky gave selflessly to the people of Santa Fe, the entire State of New Mexico, and our Nation, but he was even more devoted to family. Lucky is survived by his three children—Jeff, James, and Bernadette—and nine grandchildren. New Mexico is a better place thanks to Lucky's over 50 years of service. We will miss him dearly.●

## 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.)

## MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:50 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, 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. 1843. An act to amend title 31, United States Code, to prohibit the Internal Revenue Service from carrying out seizures relating to a structuring transaction unless the property to be seized derived from an illegal source or the funds were structured for the purpose of concealing the violation of another criminal law or regulation, to require notice and a post-seizure hearing for such seizures, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2864. An act to direct the Securities and Exchange Commission to allow certain issuers to be exempt from registration requirements, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3110. An act to amend the Financial Stability Act of 2010 to modify the term of the independent member of the Financial Stability Oversight Council.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 1616. An act to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Bob Dole, in recognition for his service to the nation as a soldier, legislator, and statesman.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 69. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the District of Columbia Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run.

At 2:15 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agreed to the amendments numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, and 8 of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 601) to enhance the transparency and accelerate the impact of assistance provided under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to promote quality basic education in developing countries, to better enable such countries to achieve universal access to quality basic education and improved learning outcomes, to eliminate duplication and waste, and for other purposes; and further, that the House agreed to the amendment numbered 6 of the Senate to the aforementioned bill, 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. 1843. An act to amend title 31, United States Code, to prohibit the Internal Revenue Service from carrying out seizures relating to a structuring transaction unless the property to be seized derived from an illegal source or the funds were structured for the purpose of concealing the violation of another criminal law or regulation, to require notice and a post-seizure hearing for such seizures, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 2864. An act to direct the Securities and Exchange Commission to allow certain issuers to be exempt from registration requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

## MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following joint resolution was read the first time:

S.J. Res. 49. Joint resolution condemning the violence and domestic terrorist attack that took place during events between August 11 and August 12, 2017 in Charlottesville, Virginia, recognizing the first responders who lost their lives while monitoring the events, offering deepest condolences to the families and friends of those individuals who were killed and deepest sympathies and support to those individuals who were injured by the violence, expressing support for the Charlottesville community, rejecting White nationalists, White supremacists, the Ku Klux Klan, neo-Nazis, and other hate groups, and urging the President and the President's Cabinet to use all available resources to address the threats posed by those groups.

## 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-2688. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army (Manpower and Reserve Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the mobilizations of selected reserve units, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 30, 2017; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2689. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report to Congress on Distribution of Department of Defense Depot Maintenance Workloads for Fiscal Years 2016 through 2018"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2690. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to an alternative plan for monthly basic pay increases for members of the uniformed services for 2018; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2691. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Libya that was originally declared in Executive Order 13566 of February 25, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2692. A communication from the Deputy General Counsel for Operations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 28, 2017; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2693. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the issuance of an Executive Order with respect to Venezuela that takes additional steps with respect to the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13692 of March 8, 2015, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 28, 2017; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2694. A communication from the Secretary of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, reports relative to Executive Order 13783; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2695. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Louisiana; Volatile Organic Compounds Rule Revision and Stage II Vapor Recovery" (FRL No. 9965-62-Region 6) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 22, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2696. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; AK; Adoption Updates and Rule Revisions" (FRL No. 9966-80-Region 10) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 22, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2697. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Virginia; Major New Source Review" (FRL No. 9966-78-Region 3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 22, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2698. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maryland; Permits, Approvals, and Registrations" (FRL No. 9966-79-Region 3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 22, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2699. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval and Air Quality Designation; TN; Redesignation of the Knoxville 2006 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> Nonattainment Area to Attainment" (FRL No. 9966-93-Region 4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 22, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2700. A communication from the Wildlife Biologist, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled