

the Nangarhar Province in Afghanistan this past June. Sergeant Houck, who began his military career as a private and rose to the rank of sergeant in just 3 years, was an avid sports fan. His father called Eric his best friend and said that his family, particularly his two young children, were everything to him. He was only 1 month shy of returning home.

Navy PO1 Xavier Martin, age 24, died aboard the USS *Fitzgerald* during its tragic collision off the coast of Japan in June. Petty Officer Martin was an exemplary sailor and the youngest petty officer with a rank of first class aboard the USS *Fitzgerald*. He was so well-loved, more than 100 friends and family traveled from around the country and the globe to attend his funeral.

U.S. Air Force pilot and Annapolis native Eric Schultz was killed in an aircraft crash in early September. Lieutenant Colonel Schultz was a combat veteran and an exceptionally talented Air Force test pilot with more than 2,000 hours of flying. He held six degrees, including a Ph.D. in aerospace engineering, but was described by friends and family as the most humble man they have ever known. "If you met him in a social environment, you would never know he was a Ph.D. or a pilot," his father said.

Timothy Eckels and Kevin Bushell were among the sailors killed during the collision of the USS *John McCain* in August. Information System Technician 2nd Class Eckels was a graduate of Manchester Valley High School and was described as being "known for making everyone better by his presence" and a true pleasure to be around. He was just 23 years old. Electronics Technician 2nd Class Bushell was not much older, at only 26, and a talented technician for the Navy. He proudly served for 7 years.

There are many other Marylanders, many other families, who have suffered unfathomable loss and injury, and all of them deserve our collective and eternal gratitude.

They also deserve to have the many promises we have made kept. They deserve the job training, education assistance, and housing benefits they have earned. They deserve every tool and resource they need to succeed both professionally and personally once they return home. They deserve leaders who consider their sacrifice every day, not only on Veterans Day.

Let us honor our veterans in ways that are truly befitting their service: by vowing to protect the benefits they have earned. By pledging to remain grateful for their service and concerned for their needs every day, not only on this day and, perhaps most critically of all, by recommitting ourselves to the causes for which they served.

Today, I salute every man and woman who has put on a uniform and humbly thank every one of their families for braving the worst fears and the toughest challenges in service to our Nation.

(At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

• Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the prisoners of war and those missing in action and commemorate the empty chair that was placed in Emancipation Hall this Veterans Day week.

I want to thank Montana veteran Ed Saunders for contributing his thoughts to today's CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

The greatest tragedy befalling an American serviceman or woman is not that they may be killed or left missing-in-action: that is the greatest sacrifice on the altar of freedom.

The greatest tragedy is that America's finest in uniform may be forgotten . . . forgotten in life and in forgotten in death by the very same nation whose constitution, freedoms, and way of life, they defend.

The United States of America cannot and must not leave any serviceman or woman behind in body, in spirit, or in memory.

If we cannot bring home the revered mortal remains of those who died, who are missing, or who remain unaccounted for, then we have an enduring responsibility to ensure their memory remains forever etched in these hallowed halls.

This chair is more than a symbol. It is a memory of their service and sacrifice for this great Nation. It is a lasting reminder that we have an obligation to fulfill our promise to our Nation's veterans and their families when they return from war—and when they tragically don't.

We, as a nation, must redouble our commitment to that cause and work relentlessly every day toward fulfilling that promise.

I want to thank every servicemember in attendance, your families, the families of the fallen and missing in action, and those who remember them.

Thank you, and God Bless America.●

EISENHOWER MEMORIAL GROUNDBREAKING

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the remarks that my colleague, Senator PAT ROBERTS, made at the groundbreaking ceremony of the Eisenhower Memorial on November 2, 2017, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

REMARKS BY SENATOR ROBERTS—EISENHOWER MEMORIAL GROUNDBREAKING

Thank you, Greta, for that kind introduction. And thank you so much for your longstanding support of this project. You have been a true soldier in the Eisenhower memorial army in helping to get us here today.

I know I speak for all gathered for this memorable event, when I say it is great to be here today.

First, let us reflect for a moment about a few members of the Greatest Generation who brought us to this place today. Ted Stevens and Dan Inouye—two giants in the Senate, who authored the legislation to create the Eisenhower memorial.

When Ted and Danny started us down this path, it was both an honor and privilege for me, a new senator from Kansas, to be asked

to help memorialize our most famous Kansan, Dwight David Eisenhower.

Then there is our Chairman Emeritus, Rocco Siciliano, another WWII veteran. For over a decade, Rocco led our efforts. He did so with the qualities that made him successful in government and the private sector: integrity and inclusion.

When Rocco called me and said it was time to pass the leadership torch—and would I agree to succeed him as Chairman? I said, it would be an honor, but there was a qualification:

I called another World War II vet, a great American who fought for our country on the battlefield, in the House, in the Senate, and on the campaign trail as our Republican nominee for president, another really great Kansan, Bob Dole, who also played a key role in making the World War II Memorial a reality.

I said, "Bob, I can't do this without you." And as he has always done when his country called, he said, "Pat, Ike is my hero: I'm in."

Ladies and gentlemen, I am not sure we would be standing here today without the support of Bob Dole who stepped in as Finance Chairman of the memorial. He called all the former Presidents and Vice Presidents, and asked them to come on board. And not one of them said, "No."

We were hoping Bob could join us today, he is watching on C-Span, but please join me in thanking him for his lifelong commitment and service to our nation and to this project. Bob, thank you.

And I know we would not be standing here today without the support and vision of the Eisenhower family. Their commitment to making sure this memorial appropriately captured their grandfather, as both General and President, has ensured generations of Americans will know his legacy.

Being an Eisenhower fan is something of a tradition in the Roberts family. In 1952, when I was just fifteen years old, I was with my dad, Wes Roberts, at the Republican National Convention in Chicago. I watched Ike receive the nomination on the first ballot to be our party's candidate for President of the United States.

Later, during his inauguration, I met President Eisenhower. When he entered the room, whether you immediately saw him or not, everyone knew it—with that ruddy face and great smile. He had that special charisma.

And when I shook his hand that day, I never dreamed I would be here this day leading the effort for his memorial on the National Mall.

After all these years, Why do we "Still Like Ike?" If he had done nothing else in life, his service as Supreme Allied Commander, savior of western democracy, should earn him the respect and admiration of every human being whose life, peace and prosperity that victory made possible.

But it isn't just the magnitude of his service that we revere. It is the manner in which he served. The quiet humility. The strength and resolve. The man was so humble that upon the surrender of the German Army, his message back to Washington simply said, "Mission Accomplished."

Ike may not have coined the phrase, "speak softly and carry a big stick" but he did embody it. It was not necessary for him to raise his voice or wave his arms to project strength. Those were the tactics of his adversaries.

He spoke quietly. He did not make idle threats. Yet, when he did speak the force of his words was clear.

The story of Dwight David Eisenhower is the story of America. His ascendancy parallels America's. At the end of the 19th century, Eisenhower was still a young man in

Kansas, and America was a young democracy—isolated and protected by two vast oceans.

Over the course of his career, America matured both politically and culturally, like that young man who left Abilene, Kansas, to go to West Point.

By the time Eisenhower retired from public life, the United States was the leader of the free world and at the summit of historic prosperity and peace.

It has taken a long time for the historians to discover and figure out Eisenhower's greatness. President Eisenhower anticipated problems and averted them before they ever became a crisis. His steady hand, his quiet strategy, didn't draw attention like the administrations that followed him.

Now, six decades later, for that kind of unique leadership, he is considered one of our greatest presidents, which is why we are here today.

Like Lincoln, he came from very humble origins. He never forgot the hometown that made him, and famously said, "The proudest thing I can claim is that I am from Abilene" (June 22, 1945, Abilene, Kansas).

He saw the promise that America holds for everyone and the reciprocal responsibility to serve the country that offered him so much.

Ike's values were America's values—strength, humility, discipline, integrity.

Now, we live in an era where it can seem those things no longer matter.

But they do.

We wouldn't be where we are today without them.

We are here today to ensure Ike's place in American and world history, for his achievements both as Supreme Allied Commander Europe and as the 34th President of the United States.

When asked about his legacy, Eisenhower responded, "The United States never lost a soldier or a foot of ground in my administration. We kept the peace. People asked how it happened—by God, it didn't just happen, I'll tell you that."

We build this memorial today not only to honor a single person, but as a symbol for all generations of the greatness of America and what our values have made possible at home and abroad.

Lest anyone forget what can be achieved in the land of the free and the home of the brave, let them come here and understand what Eisenhower, and America, have done. And what they, in turn, can do for themselves and for our nation's future.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:45 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. 3043. An act to modernize hydropower policy, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3705. An act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to require the use of certified mail and plain language in certain debt collection activities.

H.R. 4173. An act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study on the Veterans Crisis Line.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 2:08, p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 194. An act to ensure the effective processing of mail by Federal agencies, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3243. An act to amend title 40, United States Code, to eliminate the sunset of certain provisions relating to information technology, to amend the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 to extend the sunset relating to the Federal Data Center Consolidation Initiative, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President *pro tempore* (Mr. HATCH).

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 3043. An act to modernize hydropower policy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 3705. An act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to require the use of certified mail and plain language in certain debt collection activities; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 4173. An act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study on the Veterans Crisis Line; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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-3418. A communication from the Assistant Director for Regulatory Affairs, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Cuban Assets Control Regulations" (31 CFR Part 515) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 8, 2017; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3419. A communication from the General Counsel of the National Credit Union Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Credit Union Occupancy, Planning, and Disposal of Acquired and Abandoned Premises; Incidental Powers" (RIN3133-AE54) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 8, 2017; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3420. A communication from the White House Liaison, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary, Office for Civil Rights, Department of Education, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 8, 2017; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3421. A communication from the Secretary of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Health Education Assistance Loan (HEAL) Program" (RIN1840-AD21) received in the Office of the President *pro tempore* of the Senate; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3422. A communication from the Chairman of the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Buy American Act Report for fiscal year 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3423. A communication from the Vice Chairman of the Merit Systems Protection Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's Strategic Plan for fiscal years 2018-

2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3424. A communication from the Director of the National Gallery of Art, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Gallery's Inspector General Report for fiscal year 2017; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3425. A communication from the Director, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to applications for delayed-notice search warrants and extensions during fiscal year 2016; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-3426. A communication from the Deputy General Counsel, Office of Government Contracting and Business Development, Small Business Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "HUBZone and Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act (PROMESA) Amendments" (RIN3245-AG92) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 8, 2017; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

EC-3427. A communication from the Office Program Manager, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Schedule for Rating Disabilities; The Endocrine System" (RIN2900-AO44) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 7, 2017; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-3428. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Homeless Veterans" (RIN2900-AQ07) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 7, 2017; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-3429. A communication from the Bureau Chief, International Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Update to Parts 2 and 25 Concerning Non-Geostationary, Fixed-Satellite Service Systems and Related Matters" ((FCC 17-122) (IB Docket No. 16-408)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 8, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3430. A communication from the Acting Chairman of the Office of Proceedings, Surface Transportation Board, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the Cost-of-Capital Composite Railroad Criteria" ((RIN2140-AB38) (Docket No. EP 644)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 8, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3431. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Prohibition of Children's Toys and Child Care Articles Containing Specified Phthalates" ((16 CFR Part 1307) (Docket No. CPSC-2014-0033)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 8, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3432. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Elimination of Main Studio Rule" ((FCC 17-137) (MB Docket No. 17-106)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 8, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3433. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting proposed legislation entitled "Coast