

to her students to equip them with the necessary skills needed to achieve success in both the classroom and real world. She is a member of the district core team responsible for the roll out of the comprehensive literacy framework. Her passion is finding ways to improve students' thinking around academic and social challenges by actively contributing to the growth mindset in professional learning communities and its philosophies.

As both a parent and a teacher, Lynn understands the needs of her students and their families. She uses this understanding to create a nurturing classroom environment that fosters the highest level of learning.

Lynn has been teaching in Charlotte County schools since 2006. She has served as an educator for the second, third, and fifth grades at Peace River Elementary, Myakka River Elementary, and currently at Sallie Jones Elementary School.

I extend my best wishes to Lynn for her hard work and dedication to her students and look forward to hearing of her continued success in the upcoming years.●

TRIBUTE TO MARTIN O'HORA

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I honor Martin O'Hora, the Highlands County Teacher of the Year from Avon Park High School in Avon Park, FL.

Martin says he has always wanted to be a teacher thanks to his parents, who served as teachers for more than 30 years. Their dedication to teaching helped guide him to becoming a teacher himself, and he knew how important it is for students to have a positive influence in their lives.

Martin's colleagues and students attest to his commitment as a teacher and coach by noting he is someone they can always come to for advice and help. Martin received this important recognition because he fulfills and exceeds all that is expected from teachers.

Martin has been at Avon Park High School since 2014, teaching exceptional student education and algebra before his current resource position at the school, while also coaching the boys basketball team. He started teaching in the district in 2011 at Hill-Gustate Middle School.

I would like to extend my best wishes to Martin for his hard work and look forward to hearing of his continued success in the years ahead.●

TRIBUTE TO SARAH ANNE ELIZABETH ORAVEC

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Sarah Anne Elizabeth Oravec, the DeSoto County Teacher of the Year from Arcadia, FL.

Sarah received the Teacher of the Year award for her exemplary enthusiasm, innovative teaching approaches, and genuine concern for education.

Her dedication to achieving excellence has earned her an enviable reputation as an excellent teacher and

coach who truly cares about people and is generous with her time. Sarah demonstrates the highest level of professional commitment and competency in her work with students and colleagues.

Sarah has been a valued teacher in the DeSoto school district for more than 3 years and 5 months as the District ESOL Instructional Coach. Her positive attitude, hard work, and respect for children is a true asset to DeSoto County.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Sarah and look forward to hearing of her continued success in the years ahead.●

TRIBUTE TO CATHERINE TINSLEY PEEL

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I commend Catherine Tinsley Peel, the Holmes County Teacher of the Year from Ponce de Leon Elementary School in Ponce de Leon, FL.

After Catherine won the Teacher of the Year award, she noted that, when new challenges arise daily in the educational field, she approaches them with excitement and suspense. She has a passion to help students in her hometown to become the best academically and socially.

Knowing she can help students inspired her to become a teacher, and each time she receives a handwritten note, card, or illustration saying they appreciate her, she considered it proof that she is doing her job correctly. While teaching requires many demands, she would not trade it for anything because she gets to make a difference in children's daily lives.

Catherine is a fourth grade teacher at Ponce de Leon Elementary school. She is a Ponce de Leon High School alumni who has taught first and third grades, but has now found her home teaching fourth grade.

I congratulate Catherine for her hard work and commitment to teaching her students. I express my best wishes to her and look forward to hearing of her future endeavors.●

TRIBUTE TO HEATHER PHILLIPS

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I commend Heather Phillips, the Okaloosa County Teacher of the Year from Bluewater Elementary School in Niceville, FL.

Heather knows that being an educator is never predictable, and she thrives on the ever-changing nature of her profession. Heather was humbled to be considered among such an immensely talented group of educators and considers it an honor to represent her school, and district, as its Teacher of the Year.

She loves seeing the world through the eyes of children and allows their energy to influence her focus on what truly matters. Her teaching experiences in Japan and Hong Kong helped her appreciate diversity, and she works

to implement these experiences in the classroom.

Heather is a 15-year educator who currently teaches fourth grade. She is an active member of her church in Niceville and enjoys being part of the community.

I am pleased to congratulate Heather for her dedication to teaching her students. I extend my best wishes to Heather and look forward to learning of her continued success in her future endeavors.●

TRIBUTE TO CHELSEA SMITH

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I honor Chelsea Smith, the Hamilton County Teacher of the Year from Hamilton County Elementary School in Jasper, FL.

Chelsea believes it is important to show her students that she cares about them being successful as individuals. Her students come to her from various socioeconomic backgrounds and academic capabilities, but they all seek success.

According to Chelsea, her educational philosophy is based on teaching students to learn how to deal with frustrations in order to break the learning barrier. Her students can then work on academically improving oneself to become proficient. Implementation of enrichment opportunities should be incorporated to challenge students once they have achieved mastery of grade level skills.

Chelsea says each student has a different mindset for what success means. It is her responsibility to seek out the individual and determine what he or she needs in order to be triumphant. Her students begin class by knowing they will search for whatever opportunity today's class will bring in order to achieve individual success. Every day, once all students are in her classroom, she counts to three, and they recite the quote: I am important. I am intelligent. I will do my best. I will seek opportunity over obligation.

Chelsea has a bachelor's of science degree in elementary education and a master of education degree in education leadership education and training management/instructional technology. She has taught fifth or sixth grade since 2013.

I am pleased to recognize Chelsea for her dedication to providing her students with the opportunity to be successful. I extend my best wishes to her and look forward to hearing of her continued success.●

TRIBUTE TO FIRST SERGEANT TERRY WALKER

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I honor 1SG Terry Walker, the Jefferson County Teacher of the Year from Jefferson K-12 Somerset School in Monticello, FL.

Terry has been a valued member of the Jefferson County School District for 9 years as the Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps instructor. He is a

favorite among students and staff because he leads by example. His students trust his judgement and know he is someone that is dedicated to guiding them through school.

Terry's students respect him for the type of mindset he brings to the classroom. Those who have spent time with Terry describe him as a teacher who is dedicated to making sure his students reach their full potential, whether with the JROTC or in their academic careers. Terry's colleagues and students are proud to have him represent both Jefferson County and Jefferson K-12 Somerset School as Teacher of the Year.

I am pleased to extend my best wishes to Terry for the dedication he has shown to his students and look forward to hearing of his continued success in the years to come.●

REMEMBERING SAMUEL EASON BALCH

● Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the life of Samuel Eason Balch of Birmingham, AL, who passed away peacefully at his home on April 14, 2018. He will be long remembered for his love of life and his ability to maintain a positive outlook despite any adversity that came his way.

Mr. Balch's industrious spirit began showing at a young age. While attending high school, he tended to his family farm and worked at a local drugstore. Following graduation, Mr. Balch entered the University of Alabama School of Commerce, where he quickly became involved in the political scene and the campus social scene. After earning his bachelor of science in business, Eason enlisted in the U.S. Army.

Mr. Balch began his military career by entering the Army Officers' Training Corps, OTC, exhibiting his dedicated work ethic from the start. He was quickly commissioned second lieutenant. After graduating from OTC, he was transferred to Fort Pickett, VA, where he was promoted to captain and shipped out to La Havre, France. Eason finished his time in the Army as a major. It will not be forgotten that Mr. Balch spent much of the first half of his life serving our great Nation, proving his honor and dedication to service.

Following his years of service to the Army, Eason attended the University of Virginia School of Law. After receiving his law degree, he and his family moved to Birmingham where he joined the law firm Martin, Turner, and McWhorter, which is today known as Balch and Bingham. Mr. Balch played an integral role in developing and growing the firm and went on to become a highly respected, valued adviser for many young lawyers throughout Alabama. I, along with many others, considered Eason to be one of the top utility lawyers in the United States.

Outside of his professional career, Mr. Balch held a national presence in the Public Utility Bar and served on

the board of directors for the Alabama Power Company for over 20 years. He was also a devoted member of the Cathedral Church of the Advent in Birmingham, AL, for 70 years.

Eason and his lovely wife, Betsy, were good friends to my wife, Annette, and me for many years. I will always remember his ability to entertain any audience. Eason never met a stranger.

I offer my deepest condolences to Eason's children and to all of his loved ones as they celebrate his life and mourn this great loss.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

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

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

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13667 OF MAY 12, 2014, WITH RESPECT TO THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC—PM 37

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report, which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days before the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13667 of May 12, 2014, with respect to the Central African Republic, is to continue in effect beyond May 12, 2018.

The situation in and in relation to the Central African Republic, which has been marked by a breakdown of law and order, intersectoral tension, widespread violence and atrocities, and the pervasive, often forced recruitment and use of child soldiers, threatens the

peace, security, or stability of the Central African Republic and the neighboring states, and continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency with respect to the Central African Republic declared in Executive Order 13667.

DONALD J. TRUMP.
THE WHITE HOUSE, May 10, 2018.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:03 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. 2152. An act to require States and units of local government receiving funds under grant programs operated by the Department of Justice, which use such funds for pretrial services programs, to submit to the Attorney General a report relating to such program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5645. An act to amend the Clayton Act and the Federal Trade Commission Act to provide that the Federal Trade Commission shall exercise authority with respect to mergers only under the Clayton Act and only in the same procedural manner as the Attorney General exercises such authority.

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. 112. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for an event to celebrate the birthday of King Kamehameha I.

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

The message further announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled joint resolution:

S.J. Res. 57. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to "Indirect Auto Lending and Compliance with the Equal Credit Opportunity Act".

The enrolled joint resolution was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 11:46 a.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 bill:

H.R. 3210. An act to require the Director of the National Background Investigations Bureau to submit a report on the backlog of personnel security clearance investigations, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill was 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. 2152. An act to require States and units of local government receiving funds