

Mickey's contributions extend beyond his work with Nolin RECC. As the chairman of the Kentucky Council of Cooperatives and the director of the Kentucky Association of Electric Cooperatives, Mickey has been a strong advocate for affordable and reliable electricity programs throughout the Commonwealth. He also has served on the board of the United Utility Supply Cooperative, providing for the needs of communities across 19 States. Previously, Mickey led energy cooperatives throughout the Nation as the chairman of Touchstone Energy.

In addition to his many business successes, Mickey has also committed himself to the betterment of his community. As an executive board member of the Lincoln Heritage Council of the Boy Scouts of America, Mickey is dedicated to helping prepare the next generation to excel. He also worked to encourage economic growth in his community through his involvement with the Elizabethtown—Hardin County Industrial Foundation.

I would like to particularly recognize one part of Mickey's work for his community: saluting our Nation's veterans. Supporting the Honor Flight Kentucky program, Nolin RECC, under Mickey's leadership, along with other Kentucky cooperatives, enabled 43 World War II, Korea, and Vietnam veterans to travel to Washington, DC, last year to see the memorials built to honor their service. I am grateful for the work of Honor Flight Kentucky, which gives many veterans their only chance to visit our Nation's Capital, and I applaud the efforts of community leaders like Mickey for making these trips a possibility for our heroes.

Given Mickey's dedication to these many causes and his passion for rural communities, it is no wonder that he has been honored with several awards recognizing his service to many of these organizations. From the Touchstone Energy Distinguished Service Award to the Boy Scout Hardin County Distinguished Citizen Award, Mickey is widely praised for his professional accomplishments and his service to his community.

Although I am sure everyone at Nolin RECC is sorry to see him go, I know they will join me in thanking Mickey for his many years of dedicated service to Kentucky's rural communities. I wish him a relaxing retirement with his wife of 46 years, Barbara, his daughters, Jennifer and Carmen, and his grandsons, Craig and Mason. I encourage my Senate colleagues to help me congratulate Mickey Miller on a remarkable career of service to Nolin RECC.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO GAVIN GEE

• Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Gavin Gee, director of the Idaho Department of Finance,

who announced his retirement after over four decades of distinguished service to the State.

Gavin has led an impressive career in the banking sector, dedicating the majority of his life to promoting access to vigorous, healthy, and comprehensive financial services for Idaho citizens. He began his career at the Idaho Department of Finance in 1977 and has served as the department's director since 1996 after a short stint as its acting director in 1995. Impressively, in a post that requires gubernatorial appointment, as well as the advice and consent of the State senate, Gavin has served under four different Governors.

Prior to being acting director, he served the department in a number of other roles, including as the department's deputy attorney general, securities bureau chief, and financial institutions bureau chief. He also served as chairman and a member of the State Liaison Committee of the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council between 1994 and 1999 and as chairman and on the boards of directors of both the Conference of State Bank Supervisors and the National Association of State Credit Union Supervisors.

Throughout his career, Gavin has fought to ensure the financial interests of Idaho citizens are effectively served. He has also championed policies and enforced laws to protect Idaho's citizens from fraud, unsafe practices, and unlawful conduct. He is a leading figure in community banking, widely respected by those in the industry and those with whom he works.

In addition to his service at the State level, Gavin has contributed meaningfully to the national dialogue on financial services supervision and regulation. He was instrumental in the development of the Nationwide Mortgage Licensing System and Registry, improving supervision of the mortgage industry and enhancing consumer protection. From 2006 to 2012, he served as chairman of the CSBS/American Association of Residential Mortgage Regulators State Regulatory Registry, the board which oversees the development and operation of the System. He has worked closely with Congress on regulatory relief efforts, counseling lawmakers on the Financial Services Regulatory Relief Act of 2006 and then again on the Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief and Consumer Protection Act in 2018. On several occasions, Gavin lent his expertise in testimony before the Senate Banking Committee. We have enjoyed a close working relationship, and I am grateful for his willingness to engage and educate lawmakers. Gavin has been a real asset to the State of Idaho and the Nation, and I consider him a good friend. I appreciate his lifetime of service and wish him well in 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 4:52 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to H. Res. 1, resolving that Karen L. Haas of the State of Maryland, be, and is hereby, chosen Clerk of the House of Representatives; that Paul D. Irving of the State of Florida be, and is hereby, chosen Sergeant-at-Arms of the House of Representatives; that Philip George Kiko of the State of Ohio be, and is hereby, chosen Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives; and that Father Patrick J. Conroy of the State of Oregon be, and is hereby, chosen Chaplain of the House of Representatives.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to H. Res. 2, resolving that the Senate be informed that a quorum of the House of Representatives has assembled; that NANCY PELOSI, a Representative from the State of California, has been elected Speaker; and that Karen L. Haas, a citizen of the State of Maryland, has been elected Clerk of the House of Representatives of the One Hundred Sixteenth Congress.

The message also announced that pursuant to House Resolution 3, the Speaker appoints the following Members of the House of Representatives to join a committee on the part of the Senate to notify the President of the United States that a quorum of each House has assembled and that Congress is ready to receive any communication that he may be pleased to make: Mr. HOYER of Maryland and Mr. MCCARTHY of California.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

S. 1. A bill to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes.

S. 21. A bill making continuing appropriations for Coast Guard pay in the event an appropriations act expires prior to the enactment of a new appropriations act.

S. 24. A bill to provide for compensation of Federal and other government employees affected by lapses in appropriations.