

led them on deployments in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Later he served as deputy commanding general of the 82d Airborne Division in Operation Enduring Freedom.

As a general officer, he served in the Pentagon as the Director of the Army and Joint IED Defeat Task Force and subsequently as the Deputy Director of the Joint IED Defeat Organization established under the Deputy Secretary of Defense. He served as the Deputy Commanding General and then Commanding General of the Joint Special Operations Command headquartered at Fort Bragg, NC. He also served as the Commanding General of U.S. Special Operations Command, MacDill Air Force Base, Florida. Most recently General Votel has served as the Commanding General of U.S. Central Command.

At a time of great uncertainty in the world, General Votel has led an incredible combatant command that has an enormous influence and presence in some of the most volatile parts of the globe. He has led the way in strategic relationships with our partners and allies that have made our country safer. General Votel is an exceptional leader, an American patriot committed to our Armed Forces, our national security and our Nation, but most importantly, General Votel is a great man of character. It is for GEN Joe Votel, a soldier, leader, and selfless servant, whom we with profound admiration and deep respect pay tribute to for all he has done for the defense of our Nation for nearly four decades.

We thank General Votel, his wife Michele, and their two grown children, Scott and Nicholas, for their dedication and sacrifice, and we wish them well in the years to come.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO TONY BAZZIE

• Mrs. CAPITO. Madam President, I wish to recognize a dedicated public servant and proud West Virginian, Tony Bazzie, on the occasion of his retirement from the Raleigh County Housing Authority. Innumerable West Virginians have benefited from his tireless efforts to improve access to affordable housing in our great State and his advocacy for increased Housing and Urban Development funding. Tony has been a vocal champion for encouraging investment in section 8 housing and an advocate for a regulatory framework that balances the interests of tenants and property owners.

Tony started with the housing authority at its inception in 1979 and since then has worked hard to dispel the negative stereotypes regarding housing assistance. Currently, his office assists over 1,200 families in Raleigh County, as well as Braxton, Summers, Nicholas, Fayette, and Webster Counties. In fact, demand has been so

high that the housing authority has had to implement a waiting list to serve additional West Virginians.

Beyond the critical assistance that the housing authority provides to West Virginians in need, it also has a positive effect on the economy. Through section 8 subsidies, Tony and his staff have contributed over \$4.5 million in rental payments to local property owners. Supporting local economies is something I have worked for in the Senate and knowing that I have allies such as Tony in the State has made this journey all the more successful.

Tony has come before Congress to testify about the importance of housing authorities across West Virginia, and his insight informed the discourse regarding the Section Eight Housing Choice Voucher Reform Act, SEVRA. In his testimony, Tony highlighted the need for providing decent, safe, and sanitary housing to low-income families. His passion for and knowledge of housing policy were of great help to my colleagues, and I thank him for his service.

I would like to thank Tony for all his insight and advice over the years. His yearly visits to my DC office were always a highlight, and his input was invaluable when discussing housing issues, particularly in West Virginia. On a personal level, he was kind and helpful not only to me, but to my staff as well. They spoke highly of how attentive, patient, and nice he was to everyone he worked with. I am honored to call Tony my friend and fellow West Virginian, and I wish him well in this new phase of life. I wish him the very best during his well-deserved retirement, and I hope he can enjoy more time with loved ones. West Virginia owes Tony our gratitude, and I thank him for all his excellent work for so many years.●

##### TRIBUTE TO TERRY DUPREE

• Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, today I wish to recognize Terry Dupree, a gentleman who has worked diligently serving the people of Oklahoma throughout his career with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for 38 years.

Terry began his career with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service performing work involving the conservation, propagation, management, protection, and administration of wildlife species. Terry dedicated his life to implementing and advancing practices necessary for the conservation and management of wildlife resources and habitats. His experience and expertise has proven invaluable to the fish and wildlife community throughout his career.

This hard work eventually led him to become a leader within the Partner for Fish and Wildlife Program, which provides technical and financial assistance for the restoration and enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat on private lands. I am incredibly proud of the work he has put in over the years for

the people of our great State of Oklahoma.

I want to thank Terry Dupree on his years of service and wish him well in his retirement.

Well done, Terry.●

##### TRIBUTE TO COLONEL THOMAS VON ESCHENBACH

• Mr. JONES. Madam President, today I pay tribute to a great leader and an exceptional officer of the U.S. Army, COL Thomas von Eschenbach, now serving as the director, Capabilities Development and Integration Directorate at the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence at Fort Rucker, AL, as he prepares to retire from military service on May 31, 2019.

COL Thomas von Eschenbach has served our Army and our Nation for more than 28 years. He has been a true professional; a dedicated soldier, leader, and officer. Throughout his career he has commanded our great soldiers at many levels; he has deployed to combat numerous times in defense of the Nation; and he has been assigned critical positions in our military. Colonel von Eschenbach has provided outstanding leadership, advice, and sound professional judgment on numerous issues of enduring importance to the Army, Congress, and this Nation.

A native of Alabama, Colonel von Eschenbach was commissioned a second lieutenant of aviation upon graduating from Auburn University ROTC as a Distinguished Military Graduate. His first assignment after flight school was at Fort Bragg, NC, where he served as a platoon leader, company executive officer, and battalion staff officer. He next served in Germany as a troop commander and division staff officer.

Upon his return from Germany, Colonel von Eschenbach served as a small group leader and later company commander in the Aviation Branch Captains' Career Course and Warrant Officer Advanced Courses at Fort Rucker, AL. As a field-grade officer he returned to Fort Bragg and served as the battalion executive officer and operations officer for an attack battalion, and later brigade operation officer in the 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade to include a deployment to Operation Iraqi Freedom.

After an assignment in Army Human Resources Command, Colonel von Eschenbach commanded an Air Cavalry Squadron Task Force during a deployment to Operation Enduring Freedom in Jalalabad, Afghanistan. After this command, he served on the Army staff as the Deputy Director for Army Aviation.

For the past 4 years, Colonel von Eschenbach has served as the director of the Capabilities Development and Integration Directorate at the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence. In this role he was responsible to the development of future doctrine and concepts, force structure, and capability requirements for Army aviation to ensure our aviation forces and soldiers

have the right concepts and equipment to prevail in future conflicts.

On behalf of the State of Alabama, the 116th Congress, and the United States of America, I thank COL Thomas von Eschenbach, U.S. Army, and his entire family for their commitment, sacrifice, and contributions to this great Nation. I join my colleagues in wishing Colonel von Eschenbach future success as he transitions to other opportunities to serve the Army and our country.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Ridgway, 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.)

#### PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

#### REPORT OF THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO SIGNIFICANT MALICIOUS CYBER-ENABLED ACTIVITIES THAT WAS DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13694 ON APRIL 1, 2015—PM 7

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 13694 of April 1, 2015, as amended by Executive Order 13757 of December 28, 2016, is to continue in effect beyond April 1, 2019.

Significant malicious cyber-enabled activities originating from or directed by persons located, in whole or in substantial part, outside the United States continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of

the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13694, as amended by Executive Order 13757, with respect to significant malicious cyber-enabled activities.

DONALD J. TRUMP.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 26, 2019.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:49 p.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 bill, without amendment:

S. 252. An act to authorize the honorary appointment of Robert J. Dole to the grade of colonel in the regular Army.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 854. An act to provide humanitarian assistance to the Venezuelan people, including Venezuelan migrants and refugees in the Americas and for other purposes.

H.R. 920. An act to restrict the transfer of defense articles, defense services, and crime control articles to any element of the security forces of Venezuela that is under the authority of a government of Venezuela that is not recognized as the legitimate government of Venezuela by the Government of the United States, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1477. An act to require a threat assessment and strategy to counter Russian influence in Venezuela, an assessment of foreign acquisition of CITGO assets in the United States, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1616. An act to prioritize the efforts of and enhance coordination among United States agencies to encourage countries in Europe and Eurasia to diversify their energy sources and supply routes, increase energy security in the region, and help the United States reach its global energy security goals, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1839. An act to amend title XIX to extend protection for Medicaid recipients of home and community-based services against spousal impoverishment, establish a State Medicaid option to provide coordinated care to children with complex medical conditions through health homes, prevent the misclassification of drugs for purposes of the Medicaid drug rebate program, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House of Representatives having proceeded to reconsider the resolution (H.J. Res. 46) relating to a national emergency declared by the President on February 15, 2019, returned by the President of the United States with his objections, to the House of Representatives, in which it originated, it was resolved, that the said resolution do not pass, two-thirds of the House of Representatives not agreeing to pass the same.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 854. An act to provide humanitarian assistance to the Venezuelan people, including Venezuelan migrants and refugees in the

Americas and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 920. An act to restrict the transfer of defense articles, defense services, and crime control articles to any element of the security forces of Venezuela that is under the authority of a government of Venezuela that is not recognized as the legitimate government of Venezuela by the Government of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 1477. An act to require a threat assessment and strategy to counter Russian influence in Venezuela, an assessment of foreign acquisition of CITGO assets in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 1616. An act to prioritize the efforts of and enhance coordination among United States agencies to encourage countries in Europe and Eurasia to diversify their energy sources and supply routes, increase energy security in the region, and help the United States reach its global energy security goals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. BARRASSO, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works:

Report to accompany S. 268, a bill to reauthorize the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program and certain wildlife conservation funds, to establish prize competitions relating to the prevention of wildlife poaching and trafficking, wildlife conservation, the management of invasive species, and the protection of endangered species, to amend the Marine Turtle Conservation Act of 2004 to modify the protections provided by that Act, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 116-18).

By Mr. GRASSLEY, from the Committee on Finance:

Special Report entitled "Report on the Activities of the Committee on Finance During the 115th Congress" (Rept. No. 116-19).

#### EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. INHOFE for the Committee on Armed Services.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Col. Leonard F. Anderson IV and ending with Col. William E. Souza III, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 15, 2019.

Navy nomination of Rear Adm. (1h) Peter G. Stamatopoulos, to be Rear Admiral.

Navy nomination of Rear Adm. (1h) Gayle D. Shaffer, to be Rear Admiral.

Navy nominations beginning with Rear Adm. (1h) Kelly A. Aeschbach and ending with Rear Adm. (1h) Frank D. Whitworth, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 30, 2019.

Navy nominations beginning with Rear Adm. (1h) Blake L. Converse and ending with Rear Adm. (1h) Michael A. Wettlaufer, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 30, 2019.

Navy nomination of Capt. Dean A. Vanderley, to be Rear Admiral (lower half).

Navy nomination of Capt. Kenneth W. Epps, to be Rear Admiral (lower half).

Navy nomination of Capt. Timothy H. Weber, to be Rear Admiral (lower half).