

School, as well as the military spouses and other family members serving as the guardians on this year's honor flight. These guardians have selflessly given their time to travel alongside our veterans all the way from Princeton, WV, to Washington, DC, to share this very special journey with them.

I also commend those in the Always Free Honor Flight Network for their dedication to providing our veterans with such a unique and meaningful experience. Without the diligence and passion Dreama of Denver, president of Always Free Honor Flight Network and owner of Princeton, WV's, Little Buddy Radio, as well as Pam Coulbourne, the coordinator of these flights, many of our veterans would never have the opportunity to travel to Washington and pay homage to the men and women they fought beside. Dreama and Pam launched the Always Free Honor Flight in 2012, and every year, they continue to make this dream a reality for many of our West Virginia veterans.

I would also like to recognize Sergeant First Class Paul Dorsey, vice president of Always Free Honor Flight and official photographer Steve Coleman, who have done a tremendous job of ensuring that our veterans receive the recognition they deserve. Dreama, Pam, and Steve have also dedicated themselves to the Denver Foundation, serving as incredible examples of how individuals can give back to their communities.

I am filled with pride every time I meet the patriots who have served our country, and I am so pleased to welcome West Virginia's most courageous veterans, who are all heroes, to Washington, DC. I encourage all of my colleagues to join me in saluting them. They truly inspire us all as we are reminded of their selfless service. It is because of their bravery that all Americans enjoy the greatest liberties and freedoms in the world.

God bless all our servicemembers and veterans, God bless the great State of West Virginia, and God bless the United States of America.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING JOEL COURREGES

• Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I am honored to pay tribute to Joel Courreges, a Washingtonian, a marine, and commander of the Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 5, upon his passing.

Joel Courreges was a man who never stopped serving his community, his State, and his country. Joel served our Nation as a marine in the Vietnam war, returning with disabilities both visible and invisible. Having seen firsthand how difficult the transition home can be, he made it his mission to smooth the path for his fellow veterans as they returned from service. Joel became the commander of the Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 5, in

Bremerton, WA. In this role, he not only dedicated countless hours to helping veterans file claims with the VA and making sure they could make their appointments, he even drove them himself if they couldn't get there on their own.

But that wasn't all. As Joel saw what more and more veterans were going through, he realized the system wasn't working. Too many veterans, especially those with PTSD and other wounds of war beneath the surface, were getting caught up in courts that didn't understand their unique needs and weren't prepared or designed to help them get back on their feet. Because of Joel's drive and vision, the Kitsap County Veterans Court was created, with the goal of helping the men and women who sacrificed to defend our freedoms get a hand up when they were most in need.

Having seen Joel's efforts firsthand, I know without a doubt that his dedication to public service lifted countless others, especially veterans who have given our country so much, and helped them lead the fulfilling lives they deserve. I will always be grateful to Joel for his kindness, his generosity of spirit, and his determination to make a difference. My thoughts are with his family and all those who loved him.●

TRIBUTE TO DAVID FITZ-GERALD

• Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, today I wish to recognize David Fitz-Gerald and congratulate him on his term as the chair of the ESOP Association. David has been committed to advancing the employee ownership model in Vermont and around the country. For the last 2 years, David served as chair of the association, working to promote the interests of employee stock ownership plan, ESOP, companies across the country.

In my State of Vermont, we have seen firsthand the many benefits that employee ownership can bring to businesses and employees. Study after study has shown that employee ownership has been proven to spur employment, increase productivity, grow sales, and raise wages. During the last two recessions, companies with ESOPs were twice as likely to survive the downturn.

David has been a vital ally in the efforts to expand broad-based employee ownership and bolster middle-class jobs in our communities. As chair, David advocated for the ESOP business model and the benefits of worker ownership all across the country. I know many in the employee ownership community are so appreciative of David's energy, motivation, and empowerment. Over the last 2 years, David dedicated much of his time and energy to expanding broad-based employee ownership to help create a sustainable economy that benefits all of us.

In addition to his work as chair of the ESOP Association, David serves as a trustee for the Employee Ownership

Foundation, working to promote employee ownership. He is a leader in the Vermont employee ownership community and has been a crucial ally in our fight to expand employee ownership in our state and throughout the country. As we continue to work together to help the employee ownership model realize its true potential, I know David will continue to be an invaluable partner.●

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

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 11:37 a.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 bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 615. An act to provide women and girls safe access to sanitation facilities in refugee camps.

H.R. 753. An act to promote international exchanges on best election practices, cultivate more secure democratic institutions around the world, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1359. An act to promote Internet access in developing countries and update foreign policy toward the Internet, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1952. An act to amend the Inter-country Adoption Act of 2002 to require the Secretary of State to report on intercountry adoptions from countries which have significantly reduced adoption rates involving immigration to the United States, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2116. An act to enhance stabilization of conflict-affected areas and prevent violence and fragility globally, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2480. An act to reauthorize the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 615. An act to provide women and girls safe access to sanitation facilities in refugee camps; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 753. An act to promote international exchanges on best election practices, cultivate more secure democratic institutions around the world, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 1359. An act to promote Internet access in developing countries and update foreign policy toward the Internet, and for

other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 1952. An act to amend the Inter-country Adoption Act of 2000 to require the Secretary of State to report on intercountry adoptions from countries which have significantly reduced adoption rates involving immigration to the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 2116. An act to enhance stabilization of conflict-affected areas and prevent violence and fragility globally, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 2480. An act to reauthorize the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

MEASURE HELD AT THE DESK

The following measure was ordered held at the desk, by unanimous consent:

S. 1370. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat certain military survivor benefits as earned income for purposes of the kiddie tax.

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-1319. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Marketing Order Regulating the Handling of Spearmint Oil Produced in the Far West; Salable Quantities and Allotment Percentages for the 2019-2020 Marketing Year" (7 CFR Part 985) (Docket No. AMS-SC-18-0084)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 16, 2019; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1320. A communication from the Acting Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Vice Admiral Mathias W. Winter, United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of vice admiral on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1321. A communication from the Acting Secretary of Defense, transmitting a request relative to issuing a travel restriction on senior officials' travel to Afghanistan effective May 15, 2019 through September 30, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1322. A communication from the Executive Director, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Annual Update of Filing Fees" ((RIN1902-AF63) (Docket No. RM19-14-000)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 20, 2019; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1323. A communication from the Director of Congressional Relations and Government Affairs, Office of the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Office's April 2019 quarterly report to Congress (OSS-2019-0503); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1324. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's fiscal year 2018 annual report relative to the Notifica-

tion and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1325. A communication from the Vice President and Administration and Finance/Chief Financial Officer, Millennium Challenge Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for the Office of Inspector General's Semi-annual Report for the period of October 1, 2018 through March 31, 2019; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1326. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Office for Civil Rights, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority" ((RIN0945-AA10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 20, 2019; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1327. A communication from the Regulation Policy Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Veterans Care Agreements (VCAs)" ((RIN2900-AQ45) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 20, 2019; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-1328. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Fireworks Displays, Little Egg Harbor, Beach Haven, NJ" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0283)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 20, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1329. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Illinois River, Miles 0 to 187, Grafton, IL to Peoria, IL" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0171)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 20, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1330. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Corpus Christi Ship Channel, Corpus Christi, TX" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0322)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 20, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1331. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Corpus Christi Ship Channel, Corpus Christi, TX" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0369)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 20, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1332. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Kanawha River, Charleston, WV" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0358)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 20, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1333. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Upper Mississippi River, Miles

179 to 184, St. Louis, MO" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0334)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 20, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1334. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Annual Safety Zones in the Captain of the Port of Detroit Zone" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0132)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 20, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1335. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zones; Coast Guard Sector Ohio Valley Annual and Recurring Safety Zones Update" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0013)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 20, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1336. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulation; Sector Ohio Valley Annual and Recurring Special Local Regulations Update" ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0014)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 20, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1337. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulation; Sail Grand Prix 2019 Race Event; San Francisco, CA" ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0010)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 20, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-61. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan urging the United States Congress to speedily approve the recently negotiated United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement; to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 81

Whereas, The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) is a close tri-lateral relationship between the United States, Canada, and Mexico. For more than 25 years, NAFTA has been economically, culturally and strategically important for all parties; and

Whereas, NAFTA is significant for the American economy. Trade with Canada and Mexico supports nearly 12 million American jobs, and nearly 5 million of those jobs are supported by increased NAFTA trade. Since the agreement began in 1994, trade with Canada and Mexico has nearly quadrupled to \$1.3 trillion, and the two countries buy more than one-third of U.S. merchandise exports. U.S. service exports to Canada and Mexico have also tripled, rising from \$27.5 billion in 1993 to \$91.3 billion in 2017, thanks to the trade agreement's new market access and clearer rules; and

Whereas, Trade with Canada and Mexico is significant to U.S. states. For 43 states, our contiguous international neighbors represent