

joke; that he weighed cheese for a living.

Aves became the chairman of the 3,500-member National Conference on Weights and Measures, and he was given a lifetime achievement award for his work, particularly around his work in setting the standards for international weights and measurements, which is incredibly important for the global economy, much of which runs through Alaska.

In 2006, Aves became the head of the Alaska Trucking Association. Why? Well, his daughter said he wasn't a trucker himself but that he was always one at heart. He loves the music of Waylon Jennings and Kenny Rogers. He loves the culture. Most of all, he loves the truckers themselves. They are great, hard-working Americans who drive our trucks.

Aves said:

The thing I like most about this industry is that it is made up of hard-working, tough people who want to make a living. We are not looking for a handout; we are looking to pay our fair share. Our drivers work hard. They make a good living throughout Alaska.

Kristin, his daughter, said that as she was growing up, a trucker was always calling, and her dad was always offering to help.

Let me tell you a little bit about the trucking industry in Alaska. Trucking employs over 13,700 people in Alaska—almost 1 out of every 19 workers. They are good-paying jobs with benefits, and they are sorely needed in my State. With the exception of communities in Southeast Alaska, almost everything that we get in Alaska comes into the Port of Alaska and is delivered by truck.

The rides themselves are unlike any rides in the country. We actually had a reality show—one of the first of many reality shows about Alaska—called “Ice Road Truckers.” These were the guys—the men and the women—who drove the haul road, as we call it. I was just on it going up to our fish camp on the Yukon. In the winter and on ice, they drive these trucks hundreds of miles up the haul road to Prudhoe Bay. That show ran for 10 years. Americans loved it. Those were our truckers.

As Aves puts it, “in Alaska, if you got it, a truck brought it. It's absolutely essential to our economy. If trucking in Alaska stopped,” the entire Alaskan economy “would stop.”

Now, Aves is going to be retiring from the Alaska Trucking Association at the end of this month, but he sits on so many other boards and associations and he is involved in so many other elements of his community, his State, and his country, that I guarantee you there is not going to be much time for him to rest during his well-deserved retirement.

He is the kind of guy—and we all know him—who when people call on him to do things, he gets things done.

But one project he is passionate about, as am I, and it is still ongoing,

and he is still leading on it and he is absolutely determined to finish—let me explain what this is.

Like so many Alaskans, Aves is a veteran. I like to brag about Alaska. We have more veterans per capita than any State in the United States of America. He is one of them.

He served in the Army from 1964 to 1966, in the 2nd Infantry Division. He was stationed at the DMZ in Korea. Like so many of our veterans in America and Alaska, these experiences never left him.

In 2002 he read about a 2nd Infantry Division reunion, and he thought he would go. He found kinship among his fellow veterans and got talked into becoming an officer, eventually becoming the chair of the 2nd Indianhead Division Association and chair of the association's Memorial Foundation Board of Trustees.

As I said, this guy is a doer and a leader. Among other things, he has led and raised money for two trips for veterans from the Korean conflict and who have served in Korea to go to Korea, and he has been working diligently to update the U.S. Army 2nd Division Memorial, which is located here at 17th and Constitution in Washington, DC.

The memorial was first erected in 1936 to honor the 2nd Division fallen soldiers in World War I. It was then modified to honor the 2nd Division fallen soldiers in both World War II and Korea. This is a very highly decorated Army division.

Aves and other veterans of the 2nd Division thought that the memorial should be expanded even further to honor even more of the members of the 2nd Division who have lost their lives and to leave space for future modifications of this important memorial for soldiers from the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Like so much of what happens here, none of this was easy. When he first started to work on the memorial, he went to the Park Service, which gave him a firm “No, we are not going to help you. We are not going to let you move it. We are not going to let you expand it.”

Eventually, he came to us, his congressional delegation from Alaska, and we gave him a firm “Yes, we will help.”

We were able last year to include a provision in the 2018 National Defense Authorization Act to allow for the expansion of the 2nd Division Infantry Memorial.

Aves has been working hard at this ever since—working with agencies, raising private money for this memorial, and getting design approval.

Aves has been married to Phyllis for almost 51 years. Kristin is a wonderful daughter who has two sons of her own. Aves is proud of his grandsons, Logan and Aaron Michael, and we are all very grateful for his work on the economy of Alaska, on the logistics, on the supply, and for his work for veterans. He is someone who cares so much and so

deeply about his State, about his community, about his industry, about his country.

So, Aves, happy retirement, although we know you are going to continue to work hard. Thanks for all you have done for Alaska, for America, and thank you for being our Alaskan of the Week.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:17 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, July 18, 2019, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS AND APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601 AND 8033:

To be admiral

VICE ADM. MICHAEL M. GILDAY

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

ROBERT L. SUMWALT III, OF SOUTH CAROLINA, TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD FOR A TERM OF THREE YEARS. (REAPPOINTMENT)

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

AURELIA SKIPWITH, OF INDIANA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, VICE DANIEL M. ASHE, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

CARMEN G. CANTOR, OF PUERTO RICO, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR EXECUTIVE SERVICE, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA.

MICHAEL GEORGE DESOMBRE, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE KINGDOM OF THAILAND.

SUNG Y. KIM, OF CALIFORNIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF CAREER MINISTER, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

CHARLOTTE A. BURROWS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 1, 2023. VICE CHAI RACHEL FELDBLUM, TERM EXPIRED.

KEITH E. SONDERLING, OF FLORIDA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 1, 2024. VICE CHARLOTTE A. BURROWS, TERM EXPIRED.

DISCHARGED NOMINATION

The Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs was discharged from further consideration of the following nomination under the authority of the order of the Senate of 01/07/2009 and the nomination was placed on the Executive Calendar:

*MARK LEE GREENBLATT, OF MARYLAND, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.

*Nominee has committed to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.