Salemhaven Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. A few days later, between 25 to 30 members of the cheerleading team gathered in the Salem High School parking lot, pom-poms in hand, to greet their fellow teammates from the safety of their cars and prepare for the procession to the nursing home.

The parade, which was carefully planned to ensure that all of the athletes were at least 6 feet away from one another and the residents, consisted of a line of cheerleaders, one to a car, waved their pom-poms and blasted music to the delight of the residents.

I commend the members of the Salem High School cheerleading team for recognizing the importance of ensuring that those who are the most vulnerable to the virus feel supported and seen during this public health emergency. This is a difficult time for all Americans, which is why this straightforward and kind gesture will resonate with Granite Staters and all Americans and reflects the very best of our State.

TRIBUTE TO DARREL ANDERSON

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, I rise today to honor an outstanding business leader from the great State of Idaho—Idaho Power CEO Darrel Anderson.

There are many ways to define an effective leader: by their vision, their passion, or their courage to do something bold. Mr. Anderson possesses all the necessary qualifications and more. His impeccable character, his authenticity, and his humility define his success not only as CEO but also as an outstanding Idaho citizen, family man and friend.

Mr. Anderson’s tenure as president and CEO has been one for the records. He led Idaho Power’s parent company, IDACorp, 12 consecutive years of earnings growth—an unprecedented achievement among investor-owned utilities in the United States. In 2019, the company saw the best employee safety results ever recorded in its history, something Mr. Anderson cares deeply about. Under his leadership, Idaho Power also experienced the highest customer satisfaction scores ever achieved.

Business results like these deserve recognition. But if you ask any one of Idaho Power’s nearly 2,000 employees, they will tell you Mr. Anderson’s legacy will not be the company’s impressive numbers; it will be that he knew their name, showed up for them in good times and bad and encouraged them to make a difference every day.

On June 1, after nearly 24 years with the company and serving at its helm since 2014, Darrel Anderson is retiring. I send my sincerest congratulations to my friend and wish him all the best on his well-deserved retirement. Idaho Power’s reliable, affordable and clean energy helps make our great State the ideal place to live, and I am grateful for his exceptional leadership of this outstanding company.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF MISSION AVIATION FELLOWSHIP

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, for myself and Mr. GRAUPE, I want to recognize a very special nonprofit organization in our State that is celebrating its 75th anniversary on May 20. Mission Aviation Fellowship, or MAF, headquartered in Nampa, ID, was formed on May 20, 1945, by veteran pilots who returned from World War II with a vision that airplanes could be used for peaceful means, bringing medicine, education, and the gospel to isolated people around the world.

One of their founding members, Betty Greene, served as their first pilot, becoming the first woman to fly over the Andes in South America and the first female pilot in Sudan as she traveled the world on behalf of MAF. Betty also received the Congressional Gold Medal for her wartime service as a women Airforce service pilot, WASP.

She piloted MAF’s very first flight from La Habra, CA, to Tuxpan, Mexico, and little did she know at the time that Mission Aviation Fellowship would eventually partner with over 500 organizations in 13 countries, delivering medical services and vaccines, assisting with disaster response, and offering physical help and spiritual hope for those living in the farthest reaches of the world.

Their work among the most isolated people on our planet often goes unnoticed, but in 1956, the world was captivated by the story of MAF pilot Nate Saint and four other missionaries who were martyred on the banks of the Curaray River in Ecuador at the hands of Waorani warriors. Undeterred, MAF continued to expand its operations around the world, and in 2006, they moved their headquarters to Nampa, ID, to provide their pilots with quality backcountry flight training, favorable weather, and lower cost of operations.

The Nampa headquarters hosts MAF’s maintenance and training facility, along with all of the back-office functions that support their work around the world. The nearly 200 local employees and 300 volunteers support another 400 staff members in foreign countries. MAF has a fleet of 47 airplanes that includes 13 Kodiaks that are made in Sandpoint, ID, and are especially well-suited for the short, rugged mountain top and jungle landing strips in the areas they serve.

Throughout their 75-year history, MAF has brought physical help and spiritual hope to those living at the ends of the Earth—even in the midst of wars, disease, and natural disasters. They look to serve those that are forgotten by the rest of the world, and I congratulate them on their 75 years of service and thank them for being there to provide hope and deliver needed resources in some of the world’s most challenging places to reach.

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.)

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REPORT OF THE VETO OF S.J. Res. 68, A JOINT RESOLUTION TO DIRECT THE REMOVAL OF UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES FROM HOSTILITIES AGAINST THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN THAT HAVE NOT BEEN AUTHORIZED BY CONGRESS—PM 54

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, spread in full upon the Journal, and held at the desk:

To the Senate of the United States:

I am returning herewith without my approval S.J. Res. 68, a joint resolution that purports to direct the President to terminate the use of United States Armed Forces in hostilities against Iran. This indefinite prohibition is unnecessary and dangerous. It would weaken the President’s authority in violation of Article II of the Constitution, and endanger the lives of American citizens and brave service members.

This joint resolution is unnecessary because it rests upon a faulty premise. Due to my decisive actions and effective policies, the United States is not engaged in the use of force against Iran. As Commander in Chief, I will always defend our Nation against threats to our security.

In response to an escalating series of attacks by Iran and Iranian-backed militias on United States forces and interests in the Middle East, on January 2, 2020, United States Armed Forces eliminated Qassem Soleimani, the head of Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps-Quds Force as he was traveling in Iraq. The purpose of this strike was to protect United States personnel, deter Iran from conducting or supporting further attacks against
The United States forces and interests, degrade the ability of Iran and Qods Force-backed militias to conduct attacks, and end Iran's strategic escalation of attacks against and threats to United States interests.

On January 8, 2020, Iran launched 16 ballistic missiles against United States and coalition forces in Iraq. These attacks resulted in no fatalities. The next day, in an address to the Nation, I noted that “Iran appears to be standing down” and emphasized that “the United States is ready to embrace peace with all who seek it.”

One day later, this resolution was introduced. Its apparent aim was to prevent an escalation in hostilities between the United States and Iran. Yet no such escalation has occurred over the past 4 months, contrary to the often dire and confident predictions of many.

S.J. Res. 68 is also unnecessary because it incorrectly implies that the military airstrike against Qassem Soleimani in Iraq was conducted without statutory authority. The resolution states that “the 2001 Authorization for Use of Military Force (Public Law 107–40; 50 U.S.C. 1541 note) against the perpetrator of the 2011 attack authorizes the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002 (Public Law 107–243; 50 U.S.C. 1541 notes) do not serve as a specific statutory authorization for use of force against Iran.” The strike against Soleimani, however, was fully authorized under both the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002 (“2002 AUMF”) and the President’s constitutional authorities as Commander in Chief and Chief Executive.

The United States has long relied on the 2002 AUMF to authorize the use of force for the purpose of establishing a stable, democratic Iraq and for addressing terrorist threats emanating from Iraq. Such uses of force need not address only threats from the Iraqi Government apparatus, but may also address threats to the United States posed by militias, terrorist groups, or other armed groups in Iraq. This has been a consistent application of the statute across Administrations, including the last Administration, which relied upon it to conduct operations in response to attacks and threats from Iranian-backed militias in Iraq. Moreover, under Article II, the President is empowered to direct the use of military force to protect the Nation from an attack or threat of imminent attack and to protect important national interests.

In addition, S.J. Res. 68 is dangerous because it could hinder the President’s ability to protect United States forces, allies, and partners, including Israel, from the continued threat posed by Iran and Iranian-backed militias. The resolution states that it should not prevent the United States from defending itself from imminent attack.” But this overlooks the President's need to respond to threats beyond imminent attacks on the United States and its forces.

Protecting the national security of the United States involves taking actions to de-escalate threats around the world, including threats posed by Iran and Iranian-backed militias. Iran and Iraqi-Iranian-backed militias have a long history of attacking United States and coalition forces. As demonstrated by the recent indirect fire attacks on January 23, 2020, on the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, and January 14, 2020, on Camp Taji, Iraq, Iran and Iranian-backed militias continue to present a threat. This resolution would impede the President’s ability to counter adversarial forces by anticipating their next moves and taking swift actions to address them decisively.

For all of these reasons, I cannot support this joint resolution. My Administration has taken strong actions, within statutory authority, to help keep our Nation safe, and I will not approve a resolution that would undermine my ability to protect American citizens, service members, and interests. Therefore, it is my duty to return S.J. Res. 68 to the Senate without my approval.


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–4405. A communication from the Secretary of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a violation of the Antideficiency Act; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC–4406. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Soldier of the 1980s—Savings on Surplus Personal Property” (RIN 0709–AK90) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 4, 2020; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–4407. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General John W. Ray, Jr., United States Air Force, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.


EC–4410. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Victim and Witness Assistance” (RIN 097090–AJ31) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 4, 2020; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–4411. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to authorizing the Secretary of Defense to order units and training members of the reserve components, to active duty, to augment the active forces for the effective conduct of enhanced Department of Defense Counternarcotic Operation in the Western Hemisphere Pursuant to adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 30, 2020; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–4412. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Daryl D. Robarge, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.


EC–4414. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Suspension of Community Eligibility, Internal Docket IDEA–8623” ((44 CFR Part 67) (Docket No. FEMA–2020–0013)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 4, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–4415. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Final Flood Elevation Determination” (44 CFR Part 67) (Docket No. FEMA–2020–0003) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 4, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–4416. A communication from the Director, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Treatment of Panama Banks and Financial Institutions in the Enforcement of the Compulsory Use Prohibition” (12 CFR Part 1005) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 4, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–4417. A communication from the Executive Director, Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of the Comptroller’s 2019 Office of Minority and Women Inclusion Annual Report to Congress; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–4418. A communication from the Senior Legal Advisor for Regulatory Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Assessment of Fees on Certain Bank Holding Companies and Nonbank Financial Companies Supervised by the Federal Reserve Board To Cover the Expenses of the Financial Research Fund” (12 CFR Part 150) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 4, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–4419. A communication from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Interim Final Rule - Regulatory Capital Rule: