

H. J. Russell was the epitome of the American entrepreneur. Despite all the obstacles in his way, he worked hard to achieve his dreams. His business started as a plastering company, and he grew it into one of Atlanta's best real estate developers. Anywhere you look in Atlanta, you will see the incredible landmarks that the H.J. Russell Company has worked on: the Georgia Dome, Hartsfield-Jackson Airport, and Castleberry Hill. As a business guy myself, I am inspired by all that Herman J. Russell did in his life. Simply put, Atlanta would not be what it is today without H.J. Russell and the H.J. Russell Company. His children carry on this entrepreneurial spirit to this day. I recently had the opportunity to visit with his sons Michael and Jerome. They and their sister Donata Russell Ross are dedicated to continuing Black entrepreneurship.

Recently, I had the privilege of visiting the Russell Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship—RCIE—with Housing and Urban Development Secretary Ben Carson. The Russell Center assists African-American entrepreneurs by providing workspace, networking opportunities, and educational resources. In 2019, RCIE converted a 43,000-square-foot corporate headquarters into space for 100 emerging entrepreneurial companies. RCIE is a testament to the efforts of African-American entrepreneurs to uplift each other.

As the Georgia Greater Black Chamber and other organizations in my State look to support growth in Black business and entrepreneurship, I will continue to work to support them. Through a recent conversation with Dr. David Thomas, president of Morehouse College, I was made aware that approximately 45 percent of the young men who start as freshmen at Morehouse will not graduate. I have appealed to the Georgia business community to support HBCU's and hire their graduates as part of the solution to this problem. I was also proud to work with Congressman David Scott on a scholarship program for the "1890s" land grant institutions like Fort Valley State to help ensure they can continue to produce farmers and agribusinesses that are of critical importance to Georgia's economic future.

African-American entrepreneurship and business ownership accounts for nearly 3 million businesses in the United States and nearly a million employees. Before COVID-19, African-American unemployment was at its lowest point in U.S. history. These are remarkable statistics, but we must continue to advance the important work of supporting Black businesses, as this is key to empowering communities and individuals to move out of poverty and into prosperity.

I look forward to working with the Georgia Great Black Chamber of Commerce and other Chambers in Georgia to ensure Georgia remains the best place in America for all businesses.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE ON SEPTEMBER 24, 2020

At 1:28 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 785. An act to improve mental health care provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 1646. An act to designate the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in St. Augustine, Florida, as the "Leo C. Chase Jr. Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic".

S. 4072. An act to designate the clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Bend, Oregon, as the "Robert D. Maxwell Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic".

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

H.R. 451. An act to repeal the requirement to reallocate and auction the T-Band spectrum, to amend the Wireless Communications and Public Safety Act of 1999 to clarify acceptable 9-1-1 obligations or expenditures, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1925. An act to designate the Manhattan Campus of the New York Harbor Health Care System of the Department of Veterans Affairs as the "Margaret Cochran Corbin Campus of the New York Harbor Health Care System".

H.R. 3798. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for limitations on copayments for contraception furnished by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4983. An act to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Gilbert, Arizona, as the "Staff Sergeant Alexander W. Conrad Veterans Affairs Health Care Clinic".

H.R. 5023. An act to name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Youngstown, Ohio, as the "Carl Nunziato VA Clinic".

H.R. 5245. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for a bar on the recovery of certain payments or overpayments made by the Department of Veterans Affairs by reason of delays in processing of certain information, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7105. An act to provide flexibility for the Secretary of Veterans Affairs in caring for homeless veterans during a covered public health emergency, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a retraining assistance program for unemployed veterans, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7347. An act to designate the medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Ann Arbor, Michigan, as the "Lieutenant Colonel Charles S. Kettles Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center".

H.R. 8247. An act to make certain improvements relating to the transition of individuals to service from the Department of Veterans Affairs, suicide prevention for veterans, and care and services for women veterans, and for other purposes.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR ON SEPTEMBER 24, 2020

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 4675. A bill to amend the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act.

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 5245. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for a bar on the recovery of certain payments or overpayments made by the Department of Veterans Affairs by reason of delays in processing of certain information, and for other purposes.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Ms. Roberts, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

(The message received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:02 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, without amendment:

S. Con. Res. 45. Concurrent resolution providing for the use of the catafalque situation in the crypt beneath the Rotunda of the Capitol in connection with memorial services to be conducted in the Supreme Court Building and the Capitol for the late honorable Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mrs. MURRAY:

S. 4739. A bill to amend the Arms Export Control Act to provide for better monitoring and verification of the use of defense articles and defense services by countries of concern, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. CASEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BENNET, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. REED, Ms. SMITH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 4740. A bill to support public health infrastructure; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 4741. A bill to prohibit transfers of individuals between ICE facilities and Federal, State, and local facilities, to ensure physical distancing inside ICE facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BURR (for himself and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 4742. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to promote access to lifesaving therapies for Medicaid enrollees by ensuring coverage of routine patient costs