

to advocacy on behalf of Missouri farmers and ranchers. Among his contributions to Missouri's agriculture industry, Blake has served with the Missouri Farm Bureau in a variety of capacities throughout his career, including as a district board member, vice president, and most recently as the organization's president for the last 10 years.

Mr. Hurst was elected in 2010 as the 14th president of Missouri Farm Bureau and will cap off a 25-year career with the Missouri Farm Bureau upon his well-earned retirement. A devoted family man, Blake Hurst and his wife Julie have three children, Lee, Ann, and Ben. The family raises corn and soybeans on their family operation in northwest Missouri. Blake also operates a wholesale greenhouse business with his wife, Julie; daughter, Lee; and sons-in-law, Ryan Harms and Matt Clutter. The family raises flowers in two acres of greenhouses.

In addition to his time consuming role at Missouri Farm Bureau, in his spare time, Blake also contributes as a freelance writer, with work appearing in the Wall Street Journal, The American, Weekly Standard, Wilson's Quarterly, Reader's Digest, Today's Farmer, and the Show Me magazine of Missouri Farm Bureau.

Mr. Hurst has had a tremendous career with the Missouri Farm Bureau and is one of the most forward-thinking agriculture leaders in America. Over the years, I have truly valued the working partnership and, most importantly, the friendship, that I have fostered with Blake. Blake brings a certain passion and tenacity when it comes to agriculture, whether it is fighting against costly and burdensome regulations from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, advocating for better management of our Nation's rivers and inland waterway system, defending the Renewable Fuels Standard, promoting healthcare services for rural America, or delivering assistance to producers that are impacted by natural disaster. He has demonstrated the ability to communicate big ideas and advocate for commonsense solutions that has been a big help to me and so many others across Missouri and the country. There is no one I would rather be in the trenches with than with Blake.

Blake and Julie have done so much for our State and understand it incredibly well. I look forward to their continued advice, success, and friendship. It is with great pleasure I wish Blake continued success in retirement and well-deserved time with his family.

Thank you, Blake, for all you have done and will continue to do for Missouri.●

TRIBUTE TO JO-ANN CLARK

● Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I am proud to recognize Jo-Ann Clark of Stratham as November's Granite Stater of the Month. Jo-Ann is a Gold Star mother who, 10 years ago, lost her son, Army Specialist Christopher

Journeau, to suicide. After learning about the benefits that companion animals can bring to veterans who suffer from posttraumatic stress disorder—PTSD—the same condition that Christopher suffered from, Jo-Ann started an organization in her son's name to fund adoptions of shelter animals by veterans.

Jo-Ann's son, Christopher, served a year in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom and returned home with undiagnosed PTSD. When Christopher took his own life 6 months later, Jo-Ann was devastated. Over time, she learned about the symptoms of PTSD and recognized that her son had exhibited these symptoms when he returned home from his deployment.

During her research, Jo-Ann also learned that, for some people, a companion animal can help to mitigate the impacts of PTSD. Jo-Ann began to research national organizations that help veterans adopt pets, but she found that many veterans faced significant hurdles in the process.

In response, Jo-Ann founded Chris' Pets for Vets to make it easier for veterans to adopt companion animals from local shelters. Among other things, the organization pays the pet adoption fees to ensure that cost isn't a barrier for any veteran.

Since its founding in 2015, Jo-Ann has helped approximately 400 veterans adopt companion animals at various shelters throughout New Hampshire. Despite health concerns that she herself has faced, Jo-Ann has invested an incredible amount of her time and energy into making Chris' Pets for Vets a success.

Jo-Ann's determination to turn her own loss into productive and positive support for veterans has helped hundreds of veterans avoid the confusion and despair that accompanies PTSD. Her commitment is also consistent with the Granite State's long tradition of military service and support for veterans. Jo-Ann understands the importance of supporting veterans in every aspect of their lives, and through Chris' Pets for Vets, she is both honoring her son's memory while making a real difference in veterans' lives. I am honored to recognize her efforts.●

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 Committee on the Judiciary.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 4:08 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

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

H.R. 8276. An act to authorize the President to posthumously award the Medal of Honor to Alwyn C. Cashe for acts of valor during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. WICKER, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1427. A bill to amend the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act to improve the Network for Manufacturing Innovation Program, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 116-291).

S. 2204. A bill to allow the Federal Communications Commission to carry out a pilot program under which voice service providers could block certain automated calls, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 116-292).

S. 2346. A bill to improve the Fishery Resource Disaster Relief program of the National Marine Fisheries Service, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 116-293).

By Mr. WICKER, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, without amendment:

S. 3729. A bill to provide relief for the recipients of financial assistance awards from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 116-294).

By Mr. WICKER, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2786. A bill to establish a Federal advisory committee to provide policy recommendations to the Secretary of Transportation on positioning the United States to take advantage of emerging opportunities for Arctic maritime transportation (Rept. No. 116-295).

By Mr. WICKER, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, without amendment:

S. 4162. A bill to provide certainty for airport funding (Rept. No. 116-296).

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 Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. CRAPO, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 4897. A bill to reestablish United States global leadership in nuclear energy, revitalize domestic nuclear energy supply chain infrastructure, support the licensing of advanced nuclear technologies, and improve