In the year she has worked in my office, Renette has become an essential member of the team and a valued connection to the Air Force. She has worked with my policy team to host over 30 meetings with Arizona constituents on a range of topics related to the Nation's defense. She has assisted in making informed recommendations on confirmation votes, cosponsorships, and hearing preparations. She has helped us draft thoughtful and influential policy that I know will help the servicemembers and families of Arizona. Renette has been a steadfast protector of Arizona military missions and communities.

Moreover, Renette went above and beyond to adapt to dynamic staffing in my office. She led our defense team for several months, including coordinating with a legislative correspondent, policy aide, and our defense outreach team across three geographically dislocated offices. In this role, she planned, organized, and directed a staff delegation to multiple bases throughout Arizona and engaged with senior leaders in the military, as well as business, academic, and community stakeholders. She also successfully supported my requests to the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022.

I am incredibly proud of the work accomplished by Lieutenant Colonel Hilton throughout this challenging year. She has set an outstanding example for others, and my team and I will miss her.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO BEN COOPER

• Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize Mr. Ben Cooper, a lifelong resident of West Hartford, CT, and outstanding World War II veteran who turns 100 on December 24, 2021.

Mr. Cooper was a freshman at The George Washington University when the United States entered World War II. Eager to support his country, he went to work at Colt's Firearms in Connecticut, where he tested machine guns until he was drafted in September 1942. Mr. Cooper was sent for training at Camp Barkeley. While on furlough, he met his future wife, Dorothy, and the two married when he received news he was going to be sent overseas. Mr. and Mrs. Cooper had four children and celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary shortly before Dorothy passed.

After boarding a liberty ship, Mr. Cooper was assigned as a combat medic to the U.S. Army's 45th Infantry Division, also known as the Thunderbird Division, which was largely comprised of Native American soldiers. They saw combat in Italy, France, and Germany. While in Europe, Mr. Cooper was instructed by his friends to keep his dog tags in his pocket rather than around his neck. They were labeled with an ''H'' for Hebrew, indicating his Jewish faith, which could have led to harm if he were captured by the Germans. In April 1945, the 45th Infantry Division received orders to secure a camp. As Mr. Cooper explains, no one in the division knew anything about the camp other than their instructions to not allow anyone to enter or exit.

When Mr. Cooper and his division arrived at Dachau in southern Germany, they witnessed scenes he describes as ''virtually unspeakable.'' He met the survivors who were able to walk up to him and was traumatized by what he encountered. On April 29, 1945, the 30,000 prisoners were liberated by American troops, including Mr. Cooper and the 45th Infantry Division. In the following days, the division helped capture Munich.

Though the division was sent to France with the expectation of fighting the Japanese, they were instead discharged when the war ended before they made it to the Pacific. Mr. Cooper returned home to his family and did not speak about Dachau to anyone for 45 years.

In 1990, Mr. Cooper shared his story for the first time, speaking to a group of students. From there, he started to recount his experiences wherever it could be helpful. For over three decades, Mr. Cooper has spoken to schools, colleges, civic groups, and archival projects, repeating his eyewitness account to make sure the realities of the Holocaust are not forgotten.

His speaking engagements have led to a number of remarkable events. At the annual Holocaust commemoration at the Connecticut State Capitol in 1996, he met a man who revealed he and his wife were liberated from Dachau by Mr. Cooper and his division. They recognized the Thunderbird logo on his jacket. The two families became friends, and in 2006, their son performed open heart surgery for Mr. Cooper, who mused, ''what goes around comes around.''

In 2017, Mr. Cooper was inducted into the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame, and in 2019, he received the *Legion d'honneur*, France's highest military merit. That same year, I had the privilege of presenting Mr. Cooper with a certificate of special recognition at the Connecticut Veterans Memorial, where he also received the Connecticut Wartime Service Medal from the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs.

Mr. Cooper's lifetime of service and advocacy serves as a model for all of us. On his business cards is the motto that guides him: ''No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.''

Mr. Cooper's courage and compassion will be an enduring legacy. I applaud his many accomplishments and hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating Mr. Ben Cooper on this milestone of his 100th birthday.•

TRIBUTE TO AVERY HERRMANN

• Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and recognize a young Kansan who has truly gone above and beyond to help others, Ms. Avery Herrmann from Sabetha, KS.

Avery has been making jewelry since 2017 to help support the Kansas Honor Flight. She first began designing jewelry after developing staphyloma in her right eye. Doctors had told her and her mother, Mary, that Avery should pick up a hobby to help keep her motor functions developing properly. Mary had made jewelry herself as a child, so she showed Avery the tools of the trade, and she hasn't stopped since.

For a while, Avery had kept up with jewelry making for personal use, but the death of her grandfather Robert in 2016 showed her what she could do to make a difference with her skills. Robert was a Korean war veteran who had previously gone on an Honor Flight himself, which was one of his most memorable experiences. After his passing, Avery started Abundant Love jewelry as a tribute to her grandfather and a way to support veterans in her community. With this new business, she began selling earrings online and at various fundraising events. To date, Avery has raised almost $7,000 through Abundant Love.

Stories like Avery's are what truly show the best of Kansas. I have met with countless veterans on Honor Flights, and each has their own unique and incredible experience like Robert. Avery already is selfless in making and selling her earrings to benefit Honor Flight, but what truly makes this project extraordinary is that she doesn't take a penny for herself. Every single dollar made from Abundant Love goes directly to Honor Flight's benefit. Whether she knows it or not, those veterans appreciate what she does for them, and I join them in showing my appreciation for Avery. I now ask my colleagues to join in me in recognizing Avery for her outstanding service for our Nation's heroes.•

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND ALVIN C. HATHAWAY

• Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to a faith leader and community activist from my home State of Maryland who has recently stepped down from his post as senior pastor at Union Baptist Church: Reverend Alvin C. Hathaway. I would like to honor his service to the people of Maryland and enter the details of his journey into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD so that current and future generations may learn from and study his inspiring career.

The story of Reverend Hathaway's life is deeply bound to the story of Union Baptist Church. Alvin Hathaway grew up on Druid Hill Avenue in West Baltimore in a family that believed deeply in combining education and service—four doors down from the church itself—and he came of age in a neighborhood shaped and nurtured by faith. That community had cradled other great leaders too—leaders who,

like Reverend Hathaway, bent the arc of history toward justice. Thurgood Marshall had lived along the same avenue where he grew up. The late great Maryland Congressman Elijah Cummings was one of his high school classmates. And at an early age, Reverend Hathaway was mentored by another legendary son of Baltimore City and civil rights champion, Reverend Vernon Dobson, with whom he helped organize and found BUILD, Baltimoreans United in Leadership Development. That organization has been serving the people of Baltimore City for over 40 years, helping to improve affordable housing, create jobs, revitalize neighborhoods, and so much more.

Through BUILD, Reverend Hathaway left his mark on Baltimore City early in his career, and his legacy of good works will continue to endure through that powerful organization. But he has never been one to rest on his laurels, and Reverend Hathaway continued throughout his life to find new ways of serving at the intersection of faith and social justice—and of giving back to the church and the community that raised him. After earning a B.A. from the McKendree University School of Religion and an M.A. from Saint Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore, Reverend Hathaway pursued a Ph.D. at the United Theological Seminary in Ohio, and he chose the history of Union Baptist Church as the focus of his academic study. Through his deep research into the narrative and legacy of that church, Reverend Hathaway became a steward of the church's culture, traditions, and values. I submit that no one knows Union Baptist Church better than Reverend Hathaway.

He then returned to Baltimore City, becoming senior pastor of Union Baptist in 2007, and he channeled his efforts in that role toward renovating the very traditions of the church that he had studied and lived for so many years. Reverend Hathaway marshalled the full force of his religious wisdom and oratorical gift to guide the West Baltimore community forward, through both good times and bad times. His swelling sermons moved a generation—and grew the faith.

But Reverend Hathaway learned early that the duties of a faith leader don't end at the bricks of the church walls. He took the values of his religious devotion and aimed them at the ongoing fight to realize the full promise of civil rights and equal opportunity. His efforts have spanned issues of health equity, civil rights, wages, and employment, but perhaps his greatest fight of them all has been waged through his dedication to expanding access to education. As senior pastor, Reverend Hathaway was deeply committed to bolstering the church's Head Start Program so more children from the surrounding area could receive high-quality early education. I have had the privilege of visiting the Union Baptist Head Start with him to see, firsthand, the impact his work has had on the community. Reverend Hathaway's legacy can be seen in the wide smiles of the children who benefit from that initiative—and who benefit from his efforts to grow and strengthen that vital program.

While senior pastor at Union Baptist, Reverend Hathaway also served as a longtime leader of Promise Heights, an organization committed to improving outcomes in West Baltimore's Community Schools. He has helped guide the course of higher education through his role on the board of the University of Maryland Medical Center. He was an early and outspoken advocate for bridging the digital divide and narrowing the homework gap so more students could access the internet. And even now, after his retirement, he is leading the fight to transform the now vacant lot of P.S. 103 in West Baltimore into the Justice Thurgood Marshall Center, which will focus on programs supporting education, justice, and ethics.

He has done all this, and more, over the course of an extraordinary career marked by a commitment to his faith, a dedication to the people of Baltimore City, and a belief in the power of community. Though he has retired as the leader of Union Baptist Church, I know that he will carry on in the work that has defined his tenure as senior pastor—and defined his entire life. I am proud to call him a full partner in the work of building a more perfect union, and I will continue standing shoulder-to-shoulder with him in our shared endeavor to invest in the success of all.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Swann, 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.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:57 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. 2685. An act to direct the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to submit to Congress a report examining the cybersecurity of mobile service networks, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4045. An act to direct the Federal Communications Commission to establish a task force to be known as the ''6G Task Force'', and for other purposes.

H.R. 4055. An act to establish a cybersecurity literacy campaign, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4352. An act to amend the Act of June 18, 1934, to reaffirm the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for Indian Tribes, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5720. An act to amend the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 to provide for a periodic transaction reporting requirement for Federal judicial officers and the online publication of financial disclosure reports of Federal judicial officers, and for other purposes.

At 5:54 p.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 bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 6119. An act making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, 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. 2685. An act to direct the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to submit to Congress a report examining the cybersecurity of mobile service networks, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 4045. An act to direct the Federal Communications Commission to establish a task force to be known as the ''6G Task Force'' , and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 4055. An act to establish a cybersecurity literacy campaign, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 4352. An act to amend the Act of June 18, 1934, to reaffirm the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for Indian Tribes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

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

S. 3299. A bill to prohibit the Department of Defense from discharging or withholding pay or benefits from members of the National Guard based on COVID–19 vaccination status.

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–2692. A communication from the Legal Tech, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Safety Zone; Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel Expansion Project, Hampton/Norfolk, VA'' ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2020–0117)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2693. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal