

oversight of well containment activities during the 2010 Deep Water Horizon response. His specialty knowledge and incident response expertise was instrumental to the management of the first-ever designated Spill of National Significance, SONS, in U.S. history.

Rear Admiral Cook later served as deputy commander of the Atlantic area in Portsmouth, VA, overseeing operations spanning five Coast Guard districts and 40 States, from the Rocky Mountains to the Arabian Gulf.

Rear Admiral Cook presently serves as the commander of the Eighth Coast Guard District. Headquartered in New Orleans, the Eighth District is responsible for Coast Guard operations spanning 26 States, from North Dakota to Brownsville, TX; more than 1,200 miles of Gulf of Mexico shoreline from South Padre Island to the Florida Panhandle; and more than 10,300 miles of inland waterways, including the entire lengths of the Mississippi, Ohio, Missouri, Illinois, and Tennessee river systems. It also oversees more than 179,000-square-miles of the Gulf of Mexico and the associated oil and gas exploration activities that occur on the Outer Continental Shelf.

Unique to the Eighth Coast Guard District are the wide and varied missions carried out daily across the gulf and heartland of America. Rear Admiral Cook has provided strategic vision and critical operational support to ensure that the nearly 10,000 Active Duty, Reserve, Civilian, and Auxiliary members under his charge have the necessary tools and direction to protect some of our Nation's busiest ports and waterways. In fact, the Eighth District oversees 17 of the top 40 busiest U.S. ports in terms of gross tonnage shipped annually—ports such as Houston, Lake Charles, Corpus Christi, New Orleans, and Mobile that are vital to our Nation's economic prosperity. The Eighth District's boundaries also contain the majority of our Nation's river systems, which facilitate the movement of 880 million tons of cargo annually via towboat and barge traffic. His responsibilities stretch 200 miles from shore into the Gulf of Mexico, where there are more than 6,500 oil and gas wells, over 100 mobile offshore drilling units, and approximately 30,000 people working on the Outer Continental Shelf every day. This is a vast area to command, but Rear Admiral Kevin Cook does so admirably.

A lifelong learner, Rear Admiral Cook has taken advantage of every opportunity to improve himself for the betterment of the Coast Guard and his community. He earned a master of science degree in chemical engineering from Princeton University, and he is a 1999 graduate of the U.S. Army War College. He later served a 1-year appointment as the Coast Guard fellow to the chief of naval operations strategic studies group. Rear Admiral Cook has earned numerous military honors, including the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Coast Guard

Commendation Medal, and the Coast Guard Achievement Medal.

Rear Admiral Cook is a Coast Guardsman, but that is not all he is. He is husband to Kristen, and, together, they are the proud parents of three grown children: Erin, a second-grade teacher at Rosa Parks Elementary school in Woodbridge, VA; Peter, a technician at a TV station in Winter Park, FL; and Megan, who followed in her father's footsteps and serves as a lieutenant junior grade on the Coast Guard Cutter *Juniper* in Newport, RI.

This week, Rear Admiral Kevin Cook will leave his post in New Orleans and retire after 36 years of exemplary service to the Coast Guard and our Nation. Including his Coast Guard Academy time, Rear Admiral Cook has served our Nation for 40 years. Just as he has stood the watch and has been "Semper Paratus . . . Always Ready" during his career, I am sure that he is ready for the next phase of his life. The Coast Guard will carry on, as will his service legacy, through the men and women who he has led and mentored for the past four decades.

I ask my colleagues in the Senate to join me in thanking Rear Admiral Cook for his distinguished service and, in Coast Guard tradition, wish him fair winds and following seas.●

REMEMBERING FRANK HENDERSON

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I wish to honor the life of Frank Henderson, an outstanding Idaho leader who will be missed greatly.

Frank personified public service. He served our Nation in the U.S. Army 33rd Division during World War II. He served our State and his district in the Idaho State Legislature for five terms. He served Kootenai County as Kootenai County commissioner, and he served his community as mayor of Post Falls. Frank was a newsman by trade who attended the University of Idaho and began his career in journalism as a reporter for the Chicago Herald American newspaper. He worked as a marketing executive before returning to Idaho in 1976 and becoming the owner and publisher of the Post Falls Tribune.

Frank was a humble man who did not crave the spotlight. Throughout his career and life, he was a focused, organized, direct, driven, and solution-oriented leader. Frank worked hard, and utilized his ability to work well with others to make progress and deliver many significant achievements. These included drawing in and retaining businesses and jobs in Idaho, building the infrastructure to sustain economic expansion, and eliminating impediments to job growth.

He recognized the value of consensus building and the strength of a diversity of experiences and abilities. Diversification was central to his economic development efforts. Frank promoted a diversity of industry and local edu-

cational opportunities to support those industries and grow jobs. He wanted to make sure Idahoans had access to a broad spectrum of job opportunities, and he worked diligently to draw those industries to Idaho while assisting businesses already in Idaho with remaining competitive.

It is no surprise that Frank's talents and achievements have been widely recognized. He was inducted into the Idaho Hall of Fame in 2014 and received many other recognitions for his work in furthering economic development and in support of seniors, veterans, the Boy Scouts of America, and others. Frank received a Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award for Volunteerism.

Frank was so dedicated that he worked well into what would be many people's retirement years to make improvements for Idahoans. We have much to thank Frank Henderson for, including his example of effective leadership, his tenacity in seeing projects through to completion, and his focus on strengthening Idaho. I express my deep condolences to Frank's wife, Betty Ann, his children and their families, and his many other friends and loved ones.●

APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION 50TH ANNIVERSARY

● Mr. KAINÉ. Mr. President, this spring, we celebrate the 50th anniversary of President Johnson signing legislation to establish the Appalachian Regional Commission, ARC.

The ARC represents a unique partnership between Federal, State and local government in 13 Appalachian States with the aim to address persistent poverty in Appalachian regions. In Virginia, 25 counties and 8 cities are part of that region. Since its inception, the Appalachian Regional Commission has worked to combat problems such as poor health, limited transportation infrastructure, and the digital divide. Over the past 50 years, ARC has funded projects that assisted in the reduction of distressed communities in the Commonwealth by providing assistance for water and wastewater projects, encouraging the adoption of advanced technologies such as broadband service, and supporting the development of community leaders and entrepreneurs. ARC has also recognized the importance of economic development that encourages tourism to help create communities where people want to live, work and visit.

In 1960, 43.2 percent of people lived in poverty in Virginia's Appalachian Region. That number has decreased to 18.6 percent today. In 1970, 28 percent of homes lacked complete plumbing. Today, that number has been reduced to 4 percent. This progress exemplifies ARC's steadfast commitment toward achieving its objective to increase job opportunities and per capita income, strengthen the capacity of Appalachia's citizens to compete in the global economy, improve the region's

infrastructure, and build the Appalachian Development Highway System, ADHS.

Great strides have been made in Virginia's Appalachian Region, but more work remains. I am proud to have signed a letter to the chairman and ranking member on Appropriations requesting fiscal year 2016 ARC funding at the President's budget request of \$93 million. This critical work must continue until the 25 million Americans who live in the Appalachian Regions are helped out of poverty and can achieve socioeconomic parity with the Nation.

With the Appalachian Regional Commission's continued work and determination, I am confident that the region will continue toward economic progress, growth, and development.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13611 OF MAY 16, 2012, WITH RESPECT TO YEMEN—PM 16

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13611 of May 16, 2012, with respect to Yemen is to continue in effect beyond May 16, 2015.

The actions and policies of certain members of the Government of Yemen and others continue to threaten Yemen's peace, security, and stability, including by obstructing the implementation of the agreement of November 23, 2011, between the Government of Yemen and those in opposition to it, which provided for a peaceful transition of power that meets the legitimate demands and aspirations of the Yemeni people for change, and by obstructing the political process in Yemen. For

this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13611 with respect to Yemen.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, May 13, 2015.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 1:37 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 bills, without amendment:

S. 665. An act to encourage, enhance, and integrate Blue Alert plans throughout the United States in order to disseminate information when a law enforcement officer is seriously injured or killed in the line of duty, is missing in connection with the officer's official duties, or an imminent and credible threat that an individual intends to cause the serious injury or death of a law enforcement officer is received, and for other purposes.

S. 1124. An act to amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to improve the Act.

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

H.R. 606. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude certain compensation received by public safety officers and their dependents from gross income.

H.R. 723. An act to provide Capitol-flown flags to the immediate family of fire fighters, law enforcement officers, members of rescue squads or ambulance crews, and public safety officers who are killed in the line of duty.

H.R. 1732. An act to preserve existing rights and responsibilities with respect to waters of the United States, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2146. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow Federal law enforcement officers, firefighters, and air traffic controllers to make penalty-free withdrawals from governmental plans after age 50, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the following resolution:

H. Res. 254. Resolution relative to the death of the Honorable James Claude Wright, Jr., a former Representative from the State of Texas.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 3:30 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 651. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 820 Elmwood Avenue in Providence, Rhode Island, as the "Sister Ann Keefe Post Office".

H.R. 1075. An act to designate the United States Customs and Border Protection Port of Entry located at First Street and Pan American Avenue in Douglas, Arizona, as the "Raul Hector Castro Port of Entry".

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 723. An act to provide Capitol-flown flags to the immediate family of fire fighters, law enforcement officers, members of rescue squads or ambulance crews, and public safety officers who are killed in the line of duty; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

H.R. 2146. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow Federal law enforcement officers, firefighters, and air traffic controllers to make penalty-free withdrawals from governmental plans after age 50, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

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-1581. A communication from the Chief Financial Officer, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a violation of the Antideficiency Act; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-1582. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Viruses, Serums, Toxins, and Analogous Products; Exemptions From Preparation Pursuant to an Unsuspending and Unrevoked License" ((RIN0579-AD66) (Docket No. APHIS-2011-0048)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 11, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1583. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of fifteen (15) officers authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of major general or brigadier general, as indicated, in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1584. A communication from the Counsel, Legal Division, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Homeownership Counseling Organizations Lists and High-Cost Mortgage Counseling Interpretive Rule" (RIN3170-AA52) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 11, 2015; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1585. A communication from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the export to the People's Republic of China of items not detrimental to the U.S. space launch industry; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1586. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the continuation of the national emergency that was originally declared in Executive Order 13667 of May 12, 2014, with respect to the Central African Republic; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1587. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a transaction involving U.S. exports to Turkey; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1588. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a transaction involving U.S. exports to China; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1589. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled