

Sylvia Medina, a successful businesswoman from Idaho Falls, works to economically empower women and encourage the Latina community to participate in politics. John Rauker, an anti-drug campaign advocate, rescues at-risk children and opened drug rehab centers in Twin Falls and Pocatello for teens. Maria Sanchez, from American Falls, is an Idaho State University student who has excelled playing soccer for the university and is training to play for the Mexican national women's soccer team in the World Cup. Donna Scroggins, of Ririe, has dedicated many years to service. She is a World War II veteran who also served as a Peace Corp volunteer and nursed those in need in Ecuador and Afton, WY.

Judge Norman Randy Smith, of Pocatello, has served with distinction on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and is significantly involved with education and empowering students. Carmen Stanger, of Boise and Pocatello, channeled the loss of her daughter to bullying to leading antibullying efforts and working to empower teens and prevent similar tragedies in other families. Pastor Jacqueline Thomas, of Pocatello, grew the church she started from a congregation of 3 to more than 200. As an African-American woman pastor, she is actively involved in helping people in the community and providing a safe haven for those who are struggling.

Thank you to all the Hometown Hero Award recipients for the good works you inspire in others through your commitment to hard work, self-improvement, and community service. Congratulations on receiving this deserved recognition.●

#### TRIBUTE TO THE FITE FAMILY

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Aaron and Tami Fite of Platte, SD. I selected the Fites to receive the 2015 Angels in Adoption Award presented by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption. I chose this couple for the way they have opened their hearts and homes to their children Cody and Cate through adoption and the way they have helped inspire their community to better understand adoption and children with all types of abilities.

Though they initially intended to adopt a child from abroad, God changed their hearts and brought Cody into their lives. During the first 3 years of his life, Cody had a variety of complex medical needs, but thanks to Aaron and Tami's love and support, today he is a healthy and vibrant 11-year-old who competes in basketball, track, and softball at the Special Olympics.

Two years after adopting Cody, Aaron and Tami welcomed a baby girl, Cate, into their home through adoption. Cate has a condition she developed in the womb that prevents her from being able to walk or talk on her own. Despite these challenges, she has mastered using a Mustang walker to

walk and using an Eyegaze communication tool that allows her to talk to others using her eyes. Cate captivates others with her beautiful smile and gentle spirit.

Not long after adopting Cate, Tami unexpectedly became pregnant. Chloe was born in 2010, and another daughter, Clare, was born in 2012.

I am inspired by the Fites' faith in the Lord and their desire to spread the word about life. I am pleased they were able to travel to Washington, D.C., to help advocate for their message that opening homes to children through adoption can help spread the word that every life is valuable.

The Angels in Adoption award recognizes individuals, couples, and organizations that have made extraordinary contributions on behalf of children in need of a family. Awardees from all 50 states, plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, come together in Washington, D.C., each year to participate in events that celebrate their heroic actions and enable them to use their personal experience to effect change on a national level.

Aaron and Tami's exemplary actions demonstrate the positive impact adopting a child can have on a family and a community, and the Fites are more than deserving of this award. I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Aaron and Tami and their family, and I wish them the best of luck in the future.●

#### RECOGNIZING LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, too often our days are filled with news of worldwide violence and hardship. It is during these times that it is especially important to recognize those communities that find ways daily to celebrate life, family, and culture. Today, I would like to recognize Lafayette, LA, a city that goes above and beyond to distinguish itself as a cultural crossroads and one of the happiest places to live in America.

According to a 2014 report by the Wall Street Journal's MarketWatch, the top five happiest cities in America are all located in Louisiana, with Lafayette taking the top spot. For anyone who has ever visited this jewel of south Louisiana, the recognition will come as no surprise. Lafayette is located in the heart of Louisiana's Cajun and Creole country—an area known for its upbeat music, flavorful foods, and for letting the good times roll.

Each and every day, Lafayette's rich, unique history and culture can be seen throughout the streets of the city and the personalities of its residents. Entertaining, educational events are scattered throughout the calendar year, ensuring guests from around the world are shown a slice of the Lafayette way of life. Festivals such as the Festivals Acadiens et Creoles, held every October, provide an opportunity to experience the one-of-a-kind food, music, and

traditions that the Lafayette region has to offer. Another annual Lafayette festival, the Festival International de Louisiane, attracts folks from across the State and the region in celebrating the intriguing history and culture shared between Louisiana and the Francophone world.

Lafayette is truly like no other place in the world; just ask any of its residents. With renowned food, music, and festivals, it is no wonder the population of this southern paradise always has a reason to smile. Congratulations again to Lafayette, LA, on the recognition of being the happiest place to live; and I wish you many more successful, happy years building and growing south Louisiana.●

#### RECOGNIZING LAFAYETTE MUSIC COMPANY

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, American musicians play a large role in the cultural development of our Nation's history, and much of that success is due to the local small businesses responsible for providing the equipment and instruction musicians need. This week's Small Business of the Week has an expert staff that is dedicated to serving all kinds of musicians. Congratulations to Lafayette Music Company of Lafayette, LA, for being selected Small Business of the Week.

The Lafayette Music Company is a 60-year-old family-owned business that has continuously provided musicians in their community with excellent equipment and instruction. Built in 1955 by Mr. William C. "Bill" Peyton, the Lafayette Music Company initially focused on the sale of pianos and organs. When Mr. Raymond J. Goodrich joined the sales team in 1967, he expanded the company's focus to include servicing additional instruments, including the brass family. Under Mr. Goodrich's management, the Lafayette Music Company developed a band department, catering to schools in the Acadiana region of south Louisiana. Mr. Goodrich's affable approach to securing a local consumer base offered a unique and personalized level of assistance that was unrivaled in the area. After working as a salesman and sales manager for 6 years and part owner for 3 years, Mr. Goodrich purchased a majority of the company's shares to become the primary owner.

Today, Mr. Goodrich and his wife, Karen, provide beginner, intermediate, and expert musicians with a diverse product selection. The Lafayette Music Company offers a wide array of the latest guitars, drums, band instruments, accessories, pianos, church organs, and more, as well as an in-house repair department that has been in service for more than 80 years. Additionally, the Lafayette Music Company boasts an astonishing customer service record that has ranked them in the top 100 largest music products retailers by The Music Trades magazine for 3 consecutive years.

Mr. Goodrich and his wife, Karen, provide entrepreneurs across the Nation with an inspiring example of how pursuing a business plan with unrelenting vigor and creativity is the key to success. Centered in an area of the country with world-renowned music and an incomparable heritage, the Goodrich family has secured the business of a community of musicians with specific needs. Congratulations again to Small Business of the Week, Acadiana's own Lafayette Music Company. ●

#### 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

#### SUPPLEMENTARY AGREEMENT AMENDING THE AGREEMENT ON SOCIAL SECURITY BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE CZECH REPUBLIC—PM 28

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with accompanying papers; which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Pursuant to section 233(e)(1) of the Social Security Act, as amended by the Social Security Amendments of 1977 (Public Law 95-216, 42 U.S.C. 433(e)(1)), I transmit herewith the Supplementary Agreement Amending the Agreement on Social Security between the United States of America and the Czech Republic (the "Supplementary Agreement"). The Supplementary Agreement, signed at Prague on September 23, 2013, is intended to modify a certain provision of the Agreement on Social Security between the United States of America and the Czech Republic, with Administrative Arrangement, signed at Prague on September 7, 2007, and entered into force January 1, 2009 (the "U.S.-Czech Social Security Agreement").

The U.S.-Czech Social Security Agreement as amended by the Supplementary Agreement is similar in objective to the social security agreements already in force with most European Union countries, Australia, Canada, Chile, Japan, Norway, and the Republic of Korea. Such bilateral agreements provide for limited coordination between the United States and foreign social security systems to eliminate dual social security coverage and taxation, and to help prevent the lost benefit protection that can occur when workers divide their careers between two countries.

The Supplementary Agreement amends the U.S.-Czech Social Security

Agreement to account for a new Czech domestic health insurance law, which was enacted subsequent to the signing of the U.S.-Czech Social Security Agreement in 2007. By including the health insurance law within the scope of the U.S.-Czech Social Security Agreement, this amendment will exempt U.S. citizen workers and multinational companies from contributing to the Czech health insurance system, when such workers otherwise meet all of the ordinary criteria for such an exemption.

The U.S.-Czech Social Security Agreement, as amended, will continue to contain all provisions mandated by section 233 of the Social Security Act and other provisions that I deem appropriate to carry out the purposes of section 233, pursuant to section 233(c)(4) of the Social Security Act.

I also transmit for the information of the Congress a report required by section 233(e)(1) of the Social Security Act on the estimated number of individuals who will be affected by the Supplementary Agreement and its estimated cost effect. The Department of State and the Social Security Administration have recommended the Supplementary Agreement and related documents to me.

I commend the Supplementary Agreement to the U.S.-Czech Social Security Agreement and related documents.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, October 6, 2015.

#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

##### ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 5:54 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 bill:

H.R. 2835. An act to actively recruit members of the Armed Forces who are separating from military service to serve as Customs and Border Protection officers.

At 5:55 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that pursuant to section 313 of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2001 (2 U.S.C. 1151), as amended by section 1601 of Public Law 111-68, and the order of the House of January 6, 2015, the Speaker appoints the following Member on the part of the House of Representatives to the Board of Trustees of the Open World Leadership Center: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 202(a) of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-146), the Democratic Leader appoints the following individual on the part of the House of Representatives to the Commission on Care: Ms. Charlene Taylor of Elk Grove, California.

#### MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 2129. A bill making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, Energy and Water Development, and Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

S. 2130. A bill making appropriations for Department of Defense, energy and water development, Department of Homeland Security, military construction, Department of Veterans Affairs, and Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

S. 2131. A bill making appropriations for Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies and Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

S. 2132. A bill making appropriations for financial services and general government, Department of the Interior, environment, and Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

#### MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 2146. A bill to hold sanctuary jurisdictions accountable for defying Federal law, to increase penalties for individuals who illegally reenter the United States after being removed, and to provide liability protection for State and local law enforcement who cooperate with Federal law enforcement and for other purposes.

#### EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The following executive report of a nomination was submitted:

By Mr. ISAKSON for the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Michael Herman Michaud, of Maine, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

#### 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. VITTER (for himself and Mr. ENZI):

S. 2136. A bill to establish the Regional SBIR State Collaborative Initiative Pilot Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. BLUNT (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BURR, and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 2137. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide a period for the relocation of spouses and dependents of certain members of the Armed Forces undergoing a permanent change of station in order to ease