

Carolina this year, I would like to congratulate them on an outstanding season. They are certainly champions in my eyes and in the eyes of South Carolina.

The Clemson Tigers football team ended their season with a 14-1 record, a reputation for one of the best offenses in college football, and an ACC championship. Coach Dabo Swinney has led this special group of young men to the top of the mountain, and all signs point to them staying at the top for years to come.

Therefore, I recognize and congratulate the entire Clemson Tigers football team for all the hard work they put into a successful season. I look forward to another great season from the team this year. Go Tigers.●

REMEMBERING RALPH EUGENE NIX

● Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, today I wish to remember Ralph Eugene Nix, a beloved father and grandfather, a kind-hearted veteran, and a great Alaskan.

Mr. Nix served as a corporal in the Marine Corps during the Korean war, where he served as a gunner. The Korean war is often forgotten in our Nation's history. Because it was sandwiched between World War II and the Vietnam war, many in our country don't know much about the sacrifices made by so many—including Mr. Nix—during the war.

When I joined the Marine Corps, from officer candidate school on, I studied the war with great interest. Some call it the Forgotten War. I call it the Noble War. Tens of thousands of lives were lost, and the sacrifices were many in their effort to save the cause of freedom.

As the Korean War Memorial says, "Our nation honors her sons and daughters who answered the call to defend a country they never knew and a people they never met." Mr. Nix was one of those sons.

He answered that call as a young man and continued his patriotism by serving his country after the war. In 1976, he moved to Anchorage. He married and had children. He became active in his church and devoted much of his life to helping other veterans. As a member of the board of directors for the Alaska veteran support group, he worked to help veterans and their families with warm meals, clothing, household goods, and food.

His devotion to his country was recognized by his participation in an honor flight to Washington, DC, in April of 2015—an experience that I know meant very much to him.

For me, greeting his honor flight in DC was one of the highlights of my career, as was the trip that we made to the Veterans Administration together in Anchorage.

Last year, after Mr. Nix received a medal from Korean officials for his efforts during the war, Mr. Nix wrote,

"To serve with you men and women is one of life's greater blessings. In some way—in some capacity we all are giving our lives for our fellow man."

Mr. Nix lived up to that statement. He also embodied another statement etched into the marble of the Korean War Memorial: "Freedom is not free." The defense of freedom comes with sacrifice. Ralph Nix knew this. Ralph Nix acted on this. Ralph Nix protected the freedom of America and our allies. His service to our country will not be forgotten.

I express condolences to his wife, Carol Nix; his son, Johnny Nix, and wife, Dawn; his grandson, Jacob Moser; his daughter, Jamie Nix, and husband, Aron Aguilar.

We lost a great American, an Alaskan treasure, and a marine. Semper fidelis, Ralph.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, 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 Armed Services.

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

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-4207. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the rule entitled "Propanoic acid, 2-methyl-, monoester with 2,2,4-trimethyl-1,3-pentanediol; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 9941-17) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 20, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4208. A communication from the Acting Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Exportation of Live Animals, Hatching Eggs, and Animal Germplasm From the United States" ((RIN0579-AE00) (Docket No. APHIS-2012-0049)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 20, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4209. A communication from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Margin and Capital Requirements for Covered Swap Entities" (RIN3064-AE21) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on Janu-

ary 13, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4210. A communication from the President of the United States of America, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the continuation of the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 12947 with respect to terrorists who threaten to disrupt the Middle East peace process; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4211. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Colorado; Revisions to Common Provisions and Regulation Number 3; Correction" (FRL No. 9941-46-Region 8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 20, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4212. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of State Implementation Plan Revisions; Rules, Public Notice and Comment Process, and Re-numbering; Utah" (FRL No. 9932-59-Region 8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 20, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4213. A communication from the Deputy Undersecretary for International Affairs, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Progress in Implementing Chapter 16 (Labor) and Capacity-Building under the Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4214. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 21-259, "Access to Emergency Epinephrine in Schools Amendment Act of 2015"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4215. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 21-260, "Nuisance Abatement Notice Amendment Act of 2015"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4216. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 21-261, "Vending Regulations Amendment Act of 2015"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4217. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 21-262, "Workforce Job Development Grant-Making Reauthorization Amendment Act of 2015"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4218. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 21-263, "Film DC Economic Incentive Amendment Act of 2015"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4219. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 21-264, "Extreme Temperature Safety Amendment Act of 2015"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4220. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report

on D.C. Act 21-265, "Body-Worn Camera Program Amendment Act of 2015"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4221. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 21-266, "Omnibus Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Amendment Act of 2015"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4222. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 21-267, "Encouraging Foster Children to Have Connections with Siblings Temporary Amendment Act of 2015"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4223. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 21-268, "Employees' Compensation Fund Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2015"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4224. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 21-269, "Parkside Parcel E and J Mixed-Income Apartments Tax Abatement Temporary Amendment Act of 2015"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4225. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 21-270, "Classroom Animal for Educational Purposes Temporary Amendment Act of 2015"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4226. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 21-271, "Business Improvement Districts Charter Renewal Temporary Amendment Act of 2015"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4227. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 21-272, "Lots 36, 41, and 802 in Square 3942 and Parcels 0143/107 and 0143/110 Eminent Domain Authorization Temporary Act of 2015"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

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. GILLIBRAND:

S. 2465. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 15 Rochester Street in Bergen, New York, as the Barry G. Miller Post Office; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 2466. A bill to amend the Safe Water Drinking Act to authorize the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to notify the public if a State agency and public water system are not taking action to address a public health risk associated with drinking water requirements; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE:

S. 2467. A bill to reduce health care-associated infections and improve antibiotic stew-

ardship through enhanced data collection and reporting, the implementation of State-based quality improvement efforts, and improvements in provider education in patient safety, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. 2468. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to carry out a 5-year demonstration program to provide grants to eligible Indian tribes for the construction of tribal schools, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. KAINE, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. WYDEN, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 2469. A bill to repeal the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 524

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 524, a bill to authorize the Attorney General to award grants to address the national epidemics of prescription opioid abuse and heroin use.

S. 579

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 579, a bill to amend the Inspector General Act of 1978 to strengthen the independence of the Inspectors General, and for other purposes.

S. 627

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 627, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to revoke bonuses paid to employees involved in electronic wait list manipulations, and for other purposes.

S. 1062

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1062, a bill to improve the Federal Pell Grant program, and for other purposes.

S. 1286

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1286, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to reduce the backlog of appeals of decisions of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs by facilitating pro bono legal assistance for veterans before the United States Court of Veterans Appeals and the Board of Veterans' Appeals, to provide the Secretary with authority to address unreasonably delayed claims, and for other purposes.

S. 1774

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1774, a bill to amend title 11 of the United States Code to treat Puerto

Rico as a State for purposes of chapter 9 of such title relating to the adjustment of debts of municipalities.

S. 1890

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1890, a bill to amend chapter 90 of title 18, United States Code, to provide Federal jurisdiction for the theft of trade secrets, and for other purposes.

S. 1944

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1944, a bill to require each agency to repeal or amend 1 or more rules before issuing or amending a rule.

S. 2185

At the request of Ms. HEITKAMP, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2185, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition of the fight against breast cancer.

S. 2295

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2295, a bill to extend the termination date for the authority to collect certain records and make permanent the authority for roving surveillance and to treat individual terrorists as agents of foreign powers under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978, and for other purposes.

S. 2334

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2334, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to adopt and implement a standard identification protocol for use in the tracking and procurement of biological implants by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 2344

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2344, a bill to provide authority for access to certain business records collected under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 prior to November 29, 2015, to make the authority for roving surveillance, the authority to treat individual terrorists as agents of foreign powers, and title VII of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 permanent, and to modify the certification requirements for access to telephone toll and transactional records by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and for other purposes.

S. 2369

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2369, a bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish an Office for Community Partnerships.