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 report of a 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 January 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 Renumbering; 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