

highlighting the successes of a small business in my home State of Idaho. This month's recipient of the Small Business of the Month is a veteran-owned business, which is fitting since this week is National Veterans Small Business Week. It is always great to see veterans succeed after they close out their years of service and continue their path as a civilian. The founders of October's Small Business of the Month demonstrate that, with determination and hard work, there is no limit to what can be accomplished. I am honored to recognize an enterprise that makes it their business to help other businesses experience growth and prosperity of their own. As chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I am pleased to recognize TelStar Associates, Inc., as the Senate Small Business of the Month for October 2017.

TelStar was founded in 1979 by Jose Telleria and Douglas Stark, who decided to join together and use their individual strengths and experience in the field of information technology to create their own business. The company name, TelStar, is a combination of the names of its founders and represents the partnership between Telleria—Tel—and Stark, Star. For their first contract, TelStar developed a software program that tracked the storage and shipping of onions for Murakami Produce. Within a short period of time, TelStar was providing their services to a diverse range of clients in both the private and public sectors, including the Idaho Governor's Office, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, the Idaho National Laboratory, and Boise State University. TelStar also developed a chemical management and waste disposal management application that is currently used by the U.S. Navy. In addition to being an invaluable asset to their community, TelStar exemplifies the entrepreneurial spirit by continually adapting to the needs of their clients.

As leaders in the IT field, Jose and Douglas created a business known for flexibility and for consistently providing meaningful services. Responding to the changing needs of businesses, TelStar expanded their services from custom contract programming to network support, field services, cyber security, and IT staffing services. TelStar provides their clients with access to affordable services that allow them to improve their IT capabilities. In an increasingly technological world, small businesses have the opportunity to benefit from businesses like Jose and Douglas's. I know the technological challenges businesses can face, which is why I am proud to recognize TelStar, a successful business that is committed to helping other businesses achieve success of their own, by empowering them to be the best at what they do. Since their first contract for Murakami Produce, TelStar has exemplified the innovative nature of many American small businesses.

A belief central to TelStar's culture is that "People make the difference." There is nothing more commendable than helping someone else achieve their goals, and I would like to congratulate Jose Telleria, Douglas Stark, and all of the employees of TelStar for the impact they have had on their community. TelStar's entrepreneurial spirit is an example for every American to follow, and I look forward to watching your continued growth and success.●

REMEMBERING CHESTER RENFRO

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, Chester Renfro of Pinellas County, FL, passed away this October 22. Chet, as he was known to family and friends, was a friend of mine, and I want to say a few words about him in his passing. Married to his wife, Betty, Chet was a graduate of the University of Southern California and an engineer by trade. He designed and installed industrial water pumps for commercial industries and water treatment facilities. He started his career in California, later moving to St. Louis and then Louisville, KY, where he started his own business. He moved to Pinellas County nearly 20 years ago.

Betty was the love of Chet's life, and he adored her. When they married, they each brought their sons with them into the family—Betty and her three sons, Gene, Brad, and Paul Garcia; Chet and his two sons, Rick and Greg Renfro. Their daughter, now Melanie Nethery, came later to bless that family full of boys. Chet loved all of his children but was exceptionally proud of his grandchildren. He would be glad to tell you all about them and their accomplishments.

Chet lived a full, meaningful life, and in everything—professionally, personally, and politically—he worked hard. He loved his Wednesday golf game, his travels with Betty, and his pecan pies. He gave his time and energy to many State and local organizations, including the Southwest Florida Water Management District and the Pinellas County Canvassing Board. I looked to his guidance as a member of my academy board in the Tampa Bay region, interviewing many of the young men and women from that area who want to attend a service academy and serve our country.

Chet Renfro leaves behind a legacy of service to others and of love for his family, friends, and country. He was someone I was proud to call my friend, and he and his family are in my prayers.●

MONTANA'S WOMEN VETERANS OF WWI

● Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the hundreds of Montana women who honorably served our country during World War I.

They braved the German u-boats to serve on the frontlines. Women cared for the wounded and connected calls to

the battlefield offices of GEN John Pershing. Without them, the American forces serving in Europe could have faced catastrophe. Without them, the course of the war could have been much different.

We shouldn't be surprised. Montana women have been breaking down barriers for generations.

Merle Egan Anderson pressured the U.S. Government for 60 years to get the women who worked the Army's telephone switchboards the status of "veteran." Montanans like Merle Egan Anderson and Lena Roy volunteered to be a part of the Army Signal Corps without promise of pay, benefits, or recognition of their service. The Signal Corps women, nicknamed the "Hello Girls," proved their worth immediately. Merle, Lena, and their peers' speed and precision allowed officers to communicate across battlefields, enemy lines, and war-torn terrain. They served at the frontlines and quickly garnered the respect of the men with whom they served. They braved enemy fire and suffered casualties among their ranks. Despite their outstanding service, they returned to an indifferent government who denied them veteran status, including healthcare and burial rights.

Merle Egan Anderson took on the government, and 60 years later, she won. When the government granted the "Hello Girls" veteran status, only 18 of the 223 women were still alive.

Nearly 200 Montana nurses entered military service, 86 of whom braved enemy submarine-patrolled waters to care for troops on the frontline. They came from 56 cities, towns, and forgotten railroad stops across the Big Sky State.

Nurses Elizabeth Sandelius from Cokedale and Harriett O'Day from Billings were cited for heroism under fire for their service in France. Cora Craig from Glasgow, MT, received a Silver Medal from the King of Siam for her care of soldiers from present-day Thailand. Eula Butzerin braved the carnage of post-war France to find the battlefield grave of her brother Roy, marked only with a stick and his dog tags.

Thirteen Montana women enlisted in the Navy and served stateside. Gertrude Zerr from Chinook achieved the rank of chief yeoman, directing fellow yeoman in the naval headquarters.

During the war, these women proved to their fellow Americans and the world that women were an asset in battle. Their service defied gender stereotypes and helped changed the tide of public opinion that culminated in the 19th Amendment of our Constitution, granting women the right to vote at long last. They helped pave the way for women to take on combat roles in World War II and beyond.

After the war, Montana's World War I women veterans faded into history. Their service remains largely unknown. These women gave voice and power to a nation of women. Their service and actions helped change the

course of history. These strong Montana women were followed by more strong Montana women who have carried the fighting torch of equality for generations.

It is my honor to present this legacy today and my privilege to represent the past and present women of Montana.

On behalf of a grateful nation, I commend Montana's women veterans of WWI.●

TRIBUTE TO TOM TROXEL

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Tom Troxel for the many years of his career that he has dedicated to improving the ecological health of our national forests and for his service to the timber industry, which has strengthened the economic health of local communities.

Tom has spent more than 40 years in the forestry industry, and he has mastered the art of promoting environmentally sound forest management practices while strongly supporting the timber industry. Tom has been a trusted source of reliable and accurate information throughout his career.

He received his bachelor of science in forestry from the University of Montana in 1973. He worked for the U.S. Forest Service in Idaho, Montana, and California, starting as a summer job in 1970 during college and continuing until 1989.

Since 1989, Tom has been the executive director for the Intermountain Forest Association based in Rapid City, SD. During that time, he has worked with forest products companies in Colorado, South Dakota, and Wyoming and has played a critically important role in addressing issues related to national forest timber programs, including forest planning, project analyses, timber sale contracts, and legislative affairs.

Tom has served as the executive director of the Black Hills Forest Resource Association, the executive director of the Colorado Timber Industry Association, and a member of the Forest Service's Forest Planning Advisory Committee. He has also served as the executive secretary of the Black Hills Regional Multiple Use Coalition for 25 years and as a member of the board of directors for the Rapid City Chamber of Commerce.

Those of us who have had the privilege of working with Tom over the years will miss the knowledge and expertise he has shared with us. Our forest landscapes and communities are better because of his work.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Tom for his work on behalf of our forests, the timber industry, and local communities. As he retires from his very successful career, I wish him continued success and happiness in the years to come.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to

the Senate by Ms. Cuccia, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As 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.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:04 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. 1698. An act to expand sanctions against Iran with respect to the ballistic missile program of Iran, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 1698. An act to expand sanctions against Iran with respect to the ballistic missile program of Iran, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with amendments:

S. 1199. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to reauthorize the Border Enforcement Security Task Force program within the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 115-179).

EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The following executive report of a nomination was submitted:

By Mr. JOHNSON for the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

*Emily Webster Murphy, of Missouri, to be Administrator of General Services.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

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. TILLIS (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 2030. A bill to deem the compliance date for amended energy conservation standards for ceiling light kits to be January 21, 2020, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CASSIDY:

S. 2031. A bill to provide for the conveyance of certain National Forest System land within Kisatchie National Forest in the State of Louisiana; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself and Mr. ROBERTS):

S. 2032. A bill to make certain footwear eligible for duty-free treatment under the Generalized System of Preferences, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. Res. 312. A resolution expressing support for the designation of September 2017 and 2018 each as "National Month for Renters"; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. RISCH):

S. Res. 313. A resolution designating the week of October 30 through November 3, 2017, as "National Veterans Small Business Week"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself, Mr.

UDALL, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. CORKER, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. GARDNER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. GRAHAM, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. HATCH, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. Res. 314. A resolution designating October 30, 2017, as a national day of remembrance for nuclear weapons program workers; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 253

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 253, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare outpatient rehabilitation therapy caps.

S. 266

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 266, a bill to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Anwar Sadat in recognition of his heroic achievements and courageous contributions to peace in the Middle East.

S. 322

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 322, a bill to protect victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and dating violence from emotional and psychological trauma caused by acts of violence or threats of violence against their pets.

S. 324

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr.