

humility as their physician. I am both humbled and honored to acknowledge Dr. Vazeen for his outstanding work and selfless commitment to his patients in our State's capital.

Dr. Vazeen has served on several industry-related boards, such as the American Academy of Ophthalmology and the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery. Dr. Vazeen has also performed charitable cataract surgery in developing countries and has hosted multiple speaking seminars at the Ispahani Islamia Eye Institute and Hospital in Bangladesh. Additionally, Dr. Vazeen was a pioneer in the establishment of a teaching exchange program between the University of California, Davis and the Islamia Institute, which facilitates developmental training for medical students finishing their residencies. Dr. Vazeen's years of service and commitment to helping others is truly inspiring and praiseworthy.

I am grateful for Dr. Vazeen's dedication to the people of Nevada. He exemplifies the highest standards of leadership and should be proud of his hard work that highly benefits many Nevadans. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Vazeen, and I give my deepest appreciation for all that he has done to make Nevada a better place. I offer him my best wishes for many fulfilling years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO DALE SANDSTROM

● Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Dale Sandstrom, who is retiring from the North Dakota Supreme Court after 24 years of devoted service.

Justice Sandstrom is a fifth-generation North Dakotan. Born in Grand Forks, he grew up in Fargo and graduated first from North Dakota State University and then from the University of North Dakota School of Law.

After law school, Justice Sandstrom began his career in public service. He came to Washington, DC, to work under Senator Milton R. Young, who was North Dakota's 15th Senator and, for a time, President Pro Tempore of the U.S. Senate.

Justice Sandstrom returned to North Dakota to work on the North Dakota Criminal Justice Commission. He then served for 6 years as assistant attorney general and headed the office's Consumer Fraud and Antitrust Division. In 1981, North Dakota Governor Allen I. Olson appointed Justice Sandstrom to his cabinet as the State securities commissioner.

Two years later, in 1983, Justice Sandstrom was appointed to the North Dakota Public Service Commission, a position to which he was elected in 1984 and then reelected to in 1990. During his tenure on the commission, he served two terms as its president.

In 1992, Justice Sandstrom was elected to the North Dakota Supreme Court. He was reelected to two 10-year terms in 1996 and 2006 and was a member of the court during my time as Governor of North Dakota.

Justice Sandstrom chairs the North Dakota Supreme Court's Joint Procedure Committee and the North Dakota Advisory Commission on Cameras in the Courtroom. He is also a member of the court's Joint Committee on Attorney Standards and is a past chairman of the court's Technology Committee, the North Dakota Judicial Conference, and the North Dakota Judges Association.

North Dakotans have tremendous access to justice, and the State is a leader in court technology because of Justice Sandstrom's work. In 1996, he created the court's award-winning website, and in 2011, North Dakota became the first State in the country to have its entire trial court system on an electronic record system.

Justice Sandstrom is married to Gail Hagerty, who is a judge for the North Dakota South Central Judicial District. Together, they have three children and live in Bismarck.

Throughout his life, Justice Sandstrom has distinguished himself through his example of integrity and hard work, especially during his tenure on the North Dakota Supreme Court. He has shown not only outstanding knowledge of law, but also wisdom in applying it. He has been a mentor to his law clerks, as well as the State bar.

Outside of his work on the court, Justice Sandstrom is an active member in the Bismarck community. An Eagle Scout, he remains active in scouting and received the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award for his involvement.

We honor Justice Sandstrom for his excellent work, and we celebrate his achievements. His efforts have made our State a safer and better place to live, and we commemorate him for his dedication to the people of North Dakota. The court has been well-served by his thoughtful opinions from the bench, and North Dakota will always be grateful for his service to our State.●

TRIBUTE TO CYRIL KOFI GUNU

● Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, today I recognize Cyril "Kofi" Gunu, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Kofi is a graduate of Brandon High School in Brandon, SD. He attends Augustana University in Sioux Falls, where he studies economics and political science. He is a positive and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of his experience and who has been a true asset to the office.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Kofi for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

VERMONT FEDERAL EXECUTIVE ASSOCIATION 2016 AWARDS

● Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, to commemorate Public Recognition

Week, the Vermont Federal Executive Association—VTFEA—recognized the more than 4,000 Federal employees working across the State and the good work they do every day. I would like to offer special congratulations to the 2016 Excellence in Government award winners, who have been recognized by VTFEA for their exemplary government service: Vermont Federal Team of the Year Award, The Northwest Vermont Locality Pay Committee—Brandon Ackel, Transportation Security Administration; Robert Brugman, National Credit Union Administration; Brian Johansson, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services; Kelly Larsen, Federal Aviation Administration, Alaska; Bruce McDonald, Transportation Security Administration; Sean McVey, U.S. Customs and Border Protection; Mark Nielsen, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement; Jeff Ostlund, Transportation Security Administration; Corey Price, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Texas; Lisa Rees, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services; Diana Richardson, Federal Aviation Administration; Krista Scheele, Transportation Security Administration.

In November 2012, VTFEA discussed what initiatives would benefit the most Federal employees, and it didn't take long to realize that securing locality pay for Vermont was the No. 1 priority. In early 2013, VTFEA created a Locality Pay Committee, consisting of employees from six Federal agencies. Working tirelessly, the team prepared a locality pay proposal for northwest Vermont and, in December 2013, presented it to the Federal Salary Council in Washington, DC. Unfortunately, the first proposal was denied, so the following year, they tried again. Again, the proposal was denied. Not to be discouraged, the team drafted a third proposal in November 2015, and committee members traveled to Washington at their own expense to support the package and their fellow Vermonters. At the hearing, the council approved the package, which is waiting for approval by the President's pay agent and the President. The Northwest Vermont Locality Pay Committee's tenacity, collaborative spirit, and positivity is why Vermont is being considered for locality pay. And it is because of their efforts that VTFEA chose them as Federal Team of the Year.●

TRIBUTE TO SETH DIASIO

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Seth DiAsio, an intern in my Washington, DC, office for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Seth is a graduate of the College of Charleston in Charleston, SC, having earned a degree in studio art. Currently, he is attending American University Washington College of Law, where he is focusing on the law of intellectual property. Seth is a dedicated worker who has been committed to getting the most out of his experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Seth DiAsio for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO TREY EDWARDS

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Trey Edwards, an intern in my Washington, DC, office for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Trey is a graduate of Tuscaloosa County High School in Tuscaloosa, AL. Currently, he is attending Auburn University where he is majoring in public administration and minoring in business administration. Trey is a dedicated worker who has been committed to getting the most out of his experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Trey Edwards for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO CAITLIN HONE

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Caitlin Hone, an intern in my Rapid City, SD, office for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Caitlin is a graduate of Saint Pius X High School in Albuquerque, NM. Currently, she is attending South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, where she is majoring in civil engineering. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Caitlin Hone for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO DANIEL YARBROUGH

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Daniel Yarbrough, an intern in my Washington, DC, office for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Daniel is a graduate of Samford University in Birmingham, AL, having earned a degree in political science. This spring, Daniel plans to continue serving the public by working on Capitol Hill. Daniel is a dedicated worker who has been committed to getting the most out of his experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Daniel Yarbrough for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. GREGORY FRITZ

● Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, today Dr. Gregory Fritz will be honored by the Mental Health Association of Rhode Island with the Bell Award. This award recognizes a mental health

champion whose work has helped promote the cause of mental health and improved the lives of people living with mental illness.

For over three decades, Dr. Fritz's leadership and advocacy have strengthened our Rhode Island community. He arrived in Rhode Island in 1985 to build a comprehensive pediatric psychiatry service at Hasbro Children's Hospital. Since, Dr. Fritz has become the academic director of Bradley Hospital, the director of Bradley Hasbro Children's Research Center, the director of the Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at Rhode Island Hospital, and the director of the Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University.

Dr. Fritz is also a national leader in the mental health field, serving as the president of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry. He has used this platform to encourage integration of mental health services into primary care, a key strategy to improving children's access to mental health care, and ultimately, their health outcomes.

It has been my privilege to see up close Dr. Fritz's dedication and drive to improve the lives of children and adults with mental illness. A decades-long effort I led with Senator JACK REED to provide parity in Federal funding for teaching programs at children's psychiatric hospitals would not have been possible without Dr. Fritz. We hit many road bumps along the way, but Dr. Fritz did not stray from the course. He left no stone unturned—and no strategic partner uncalled—in advocating for this change. He noted, quite honestly, in an op-ed published in the Providence Journal, "I am far from dispassionate about this issue."

Dr. Fritz has displayed passion and energy for raising awareness and bringing people together to identify solutions to a range of issues, including mental health parity, addiction and recovery, and workforce training. This is so important for the communities he serves—children and young adults with mental health and substance use disorders—who too often don't have a strong advocate. Thankfully, in Rhode Island, they have Dr. Fritz.

Dr. Gregory Fritz has dedicated his career to improving the lives of children with mental illness, and many have benefited from his leadership. I offer him my congratulations on this well-deserved award, and I look forward to continuing to work alongside him.●

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 mes-

sage 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.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:35 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, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 5332. An act to ensure that the United States promotes the meaningful participation of women in mediation and negotiation processes seeking to prevent, mitigate, or resolve violent conflict.

H.R. 5732. An act to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, encourage a negotiated political settlement, and hold Syrian human rights abusers accountable for their crimes.

H.R. 6297. An act to reauthorize the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 5332. An act to ensure that the United States promotes the meaningful participation of women in mediation and negotiation processes seeking to prevent, mitigate, or resolve violent conflict; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 5732. An act to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, encourage a negotiated political settlement, and hold Syrian human rights abusers accountable for their crimes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 2566. An act to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to ensure the integrity of voice communications and to prevent unjust or unreasonable discrimination among areas of the United States in the delivery of such communications.

H.R. 4665. An act to require the Secretary of Commerce to conduct an assessment and analysis of the outdoor recreation economy of the United States, and for other purposes.

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-7393. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fluridone; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9951-81) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 18, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.