

the local Idaho community. Today, the business has expanded to manufacture a full line of automatic rifle products, including rifles, complete uppers, and other parts and accessories. All of Seekins Precision's products are proudly invented, sourced, and made in the USA in their new 25,000 square foot facility, a \$4 million investment back into the community.

At the beginning of this year, Seekins Precision participated in the Shooting Hunting Outdoor Trade, SHOT, Show and Conference in Las Vegas, NV, the largest annual trade show for recreational technology professionals, and the world's premier exposition of combined firearms. Participation in the SHOT Show exposed Seekins Precision to buyers from all 50 States and more than 100 countries, expanding the business' exposure to international markets. Located in the Port of Lewiston since 2010, Idaho's only seaport and the farthest inland port east of the west coast, Seekins Precision relocated to a 25,000 square foot facility in order to accommodate further product demand this past May. The small business received support from Idaho's own Governor, Butch Otter, who attended the grand-opening ribbon-cutting ceremony. Seekins Precision's astonishing success emulates that of the American Dream, reaching beyond the local community and loyal customers.

I congratulate everyone at Seekins Precision on their success, continued growth and exemplary reputation for quality. Seekins Precision represents the best aspects of American craftsmanship and is a credit to both Idaho and the Nation.●

GEAR UP HAWAII

● Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, September 22nd marks the beginning of National Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs, GEAR UP, Week and I would like to take a moment to recognize the invaluable work of GEAR UP in Hawaii.

For more than a decade, GEAR UP has provided low-income students all over the country with the support and resources they need to go to college. GEAR UP helps these students, many of which are the first in their family to go to college, to overcome the challenges they face in their communities.

GEAR UP Hawaii serves over 16,000 students each year from low-income and underserved communities throughout the State in grades 7 through 12 and in their first year in college. The program provides a number of services to these students including: supporting academic preparation in high school; providing opportunities for early college options; increasing college access and financial aid information to students and families; and supporting students in their first year in college. GEAR UP Hawaii has gained national recognition for its success in closing

the achievement gap and helping low-income students prepare for college.

Through its collaborative partnerships between Hawaii's State Department of Education, K-12 schools, the University of Hawaii, businesses, and community organizations, GEAR UP Hawaii inspires students to see post-secondary education as something they can achieve. It also gives students the tools they need to succeed in college and their careers.

The program's results demonstrate that GEAR UP Hawaii is making significant strides towards increasing the number of low-income students who are prepared for and enroll in college. The first class of Step Up Scholars, a GEAR UP Hawaii program, graduated from high school in June 2013 and earned the college-ready Board of Education Recognition Diploma, BOERD, at nearly twice the rate of the statewide average and three times the rate of non-Step Up Scholars. In addition, across GEAR UP Hawaii schools this past year, there was a 14 percent increase in the number of students participating in dual enrollment programs who graduated high school with six or more college credits. Thanks to these programs, Hawaii's students graduate from high school better prepared for college and for their futures.

A college education is a path to opportunity for our students. GEAR UP Hawaii plays a vital role in fulfilling our responsibility to ensure that every student has access to that path.●

TRIBUTE TO WENDY LEWIS

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize LT Wendy Lewis of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps on her upcoming promotion to lieutenant commander.

Lieutenant Lewis is currently serving as a Congressional Fellow on the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. A ship driver by training, Lieutenant Lewis, has ably lent herself to the committee's work. I would like to thank her for the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and other members of the committee.

This well-deserved promotion recognizes her leadership and dedication to serving others.●

ADOPTING CHILDREN FROM NEPAL

● Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, I comment today on an issue of tremendous concern to a number of Pennsylvania families who in recent years adopted children from Nepal.

In August of 2010, the State Department suspended the authorization for American families to adopt children from that nation with the exception of those families, some from Pennsylvania, who were already in the process of adopting Nepali orphans. The State Department and U.S. Citizenship and

Immigration Services told these "pipeline" families that their cases would be processed to completion, but that they should anticipate significant delays and possibly negative outcomes, since their cases were suspected of being heavily tainted by fraud, corruption, and illegal or unethical practices. In response to U.S. government requests for additional evidence substantiating the legality and morality of these adoptions, these families had to undertake extensive investigations on their own to provide such evidence.

Since these families were already completely bonded with their adoptive children, each of them eagerly undertook its investigation, at great financial and emotional expense. Meanwhile, most of the children were forced to languish for an additional 6 months in orphanages. While due diligence is appropriate for all adoptions, I am deeply troubled that in this case not a single instance of fraud or corruption was ever found. In fact, the State Department and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services ultimately allowed all these American pipeline families bring their children home to the United States. Despite this ultimately successful outcome, the State Department continues to suspend adoption of desperate Nepali children by American families. I ask that the Department reevaluate its policy with the recent experience of the pipeline families as a major consideration.

With an eye towards the future of the children who were adopted by the pipeline families, I am concerned that the public record on these adoptions from Nepal is still replete with references to fraud and trafficking. We need to set the record straight and to make it clear that each of the Nepali pipeline adoption cases in progress at the time of the suspension was ultimately approved and was devoid of any findings of malfeasance. Every child deserves a family and no child deserves to be needlessly haunted by clouds of doubt about his or her origin. These American families deserve to have a positive public record created showing that their adoptions were completely legal and ethical. I wish to personally begin that record today.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, 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 and a treaty which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO PERSONS WHO COMMIT, THREATEN TO COMMIT, OR SUPPORT TERRORISM THAT WAS ESTABLISHED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13224 ON SEPTEMBER 23, 2001—PM 53

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism declared in Executive Order 13224 of September 23, 2001, is to continue in effect beyond September 23, 2014.

The crisis constituted by the grave acts of terrorism and threats of terrorism committed by foreign terrorists, including the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, in New York and Pennsylvania and against the Pentagon, and the continuing and immediate threat of further attacks on United States nationals or the United States that led to the declaration of a national emergency on September 23, 2001, has not been resolved. These actions continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13224 with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, September 17, 2014.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 10:03 a.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. 5134. An act to extend the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity and the Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance for one year.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

At 3:08 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, without amendment:

S. 1603. An act to reaffirm that certain land has been taken into trust for the benefit of the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatami Indians, and for other purposes.

S. 2154. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the Emergency Medical Services for Children Program.

S. 2258. An act to provide for an increase, effective December 1, 2014, in the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3043. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify the treatment of general welfare benefits provided by Indian tribes.

H.R. 3593. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the construction of major medical facilities, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4137. An act to prohibit assistance provided under the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for needy families from being accessed through the use of an electronic benefit transfer card at any store that offers marijuana for sale.

H.R. 4276. An act to extend and modify a pilot program on assisted living services for veterans with traumatic brain injury.

H.R. 4994. An act to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for standardized post-acute care assessment data for quality, payment, and discharge planning, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5169. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to enhance accountability within the Senior Executive Service, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5170. An act to improve Federal employee compliance with the Federal and Presidential recordkeeping requirements, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5404. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend certain expiring provisions of law administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5405. An act to make technical corrections to the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, to enhance the ability of small and emerging growth companies to access capital through public and private markets, to reduce regulatory burdens, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5418. An act to prohibit officers and employees of the Internal Revenue Service from using personal email accounts to conduct official business.

H.R. 5419. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations.

H.R. 5420. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit the release of information regarding the status of certain investigations.

H.R. 5461. An act to clarify the application of certain leverage and risk-based requirements under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, to improve upon the definitions provided for points and fees in connection with a mortgage transaction, and for other purposes.

At 6:14 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by

Mrs. Cole, announced that the House has passed the following joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.J. Res. 124. Joint resolution making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 3593. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the construction of major medical facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 4137. An act to prohibit assistance provided under the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for needy families from being accessed through the use of an electronic benefit transfer card at any store that offers marijuana for sale; to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 4276. An act to extend and modify a pilot program on assisted living services for veterans with traumatic brain injury; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 5169. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to enhance accountability within the Senior Executive Service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 5170. An act to improve Federal employee compliance with the Federal and Presidential recordkeeping requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 5405. An act to make technical corrections to the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, to enhance the ability of small and emerging growth companies to access capital through public and private markets, to reduce regulatory burdens, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 5418. An act to prohibit officers and employees of the Internal Revenue Service from using personal email accounts to conduct official business; to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 5419. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 5420. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit the release of information regarding the status of certain investigations; to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 5461. An act to clarify the application of certain leverage and risk-based requirements under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, to improve upon the definitions provided for points and fees in connection with a mortgage transaction, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

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-7007. A communication from the Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the 52nd Annual