

Bob was named Missouri grocer of the year and inducted into the Missouri Grocers Association Hall of Fame, along with his good friend and former partner Wayne Gott.

I ask that all my colleagues join me in congratulating Bob Hufford on his decades of success. I wish him the best in his well-deserved retirement.●

REMEMBERING AARON ANDERSON

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I honor the life of Aaron Anderson, a longtime resident of San Francisco, a passionate advocate for education, a devoted and loyal friend, and most of all a dedicated family man, who passed away on February 7, 2015. He spent 25 years in higher education as a learner, educator and contributor, most recently as an administrator and instructor at San Francisco State University's College of Business. He was 50 years old.

Aaron was originally from Old Saybrook, CT, and attended the University of Connecticut, where he was captain of the men's cross country team. He began his career in higher education in student services at California Polytechnic State University and University of California, Berkeley, and went on to receive his Ph.D. in higher education from the University of Michigan. He was an expert and author in the area of organizational behavior and change, and brought this expertise to his passion for advancing education at all levels.

At SFSU, Aaron served as director of strategic organizational initiatives, following stints as executive MBA program director and graduate business programs acting director. As an instructor in organizational change and psychology, he inspired and fostered creativity in his students and colleagues and served as a mentor to many of the graduate students in his classes. His passion for education extended outside the classroom as well, where he found time to serve as a Board member for Educate Our State and as President of the McKinley Elementary School PTA.

In addition to the passion he brought to his profession, Aaron had a love for life that could not be suppressed. He remained physically active, biking wherever he went and never missing an opportunity to run up Mt. Tam or windsurf at Chrissy Field. He played weekly at traditional Irish music sessions in Berkeley and San Francisco and was an avid photographer and a prolific user of social media. Most importantly, however, he was deeply committed to his family, and embraced his early role as a stay-at-home dad.

Aaron will be deeply missed by all those lucky enough to have known him. I send my heartfelt condolences to his loving wife, Darby Davenport, as well as his two sons, Clayton and Jeremy.●

RECOGNIZING DR. M. JOHN CULLINANE

● Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I wish to commend Dr. Murdock John Cullinane, Jr., for his 46 years of service to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Dr. Cullinane, who will retire this month, is Deputy Director of the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center, ERDC, in Vicksburg, MS, a position he has held since 2010. He is culminating his public service career as the second in command of one of our Nation's most diverse research and development institutions. As Deputy Director, he has led the ERDC program management board, which is responsible for developing and implementing the organization's strategic mission. He has earned the respect of his colleagues and others for his commitment to the best interests of ERDC and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Prior to becoming Deputy Director, Dr. Cullinane served as a senior science technical manager and spent 9 years as the technical director for ERDC's Environmental Quality and Installations business area, which conducts research on installation transformation, operations, and environmental issues, as well as remediation and restoration, land planning, stewardship and management, threatened and endangered species, and cultural resources. He previously served as the technical director of military environmental engineering and science, as well as program manager of restoration research, a position that saw him direct all aspects of the Army restoration research program.

Dr. Cullinane has also led ERDC in several successful corporate initiatives to optimize the generation of unique technical solutions for a diverse customer base and to develop effective, efficient, and sustainable ERDC business operations and processes. He has also championed the ERDC Business Sophistication, Employee Success, Superior Solutions, Strategic Communication, and the Transition Stratagem, BESST, Initiative, a strategic framework designed to guide the organization into the year 2020.

Dr. Cullinane has had a distinguished career of exemplary service to the U.S. Army and the Army Corps of Engineers. His professionalism, dedication, and technical expertise have been valuable to ERDC and are a testament to his good character and high standards. His contributions are in keeping with the finest traditions of military and civilian service and reflect great credit upon the Army Corps, the Army, and our Nation.

I am pleased to commend Dr. Cullinane for his service and to wish him well in the years ahead.●

RECOGNIZING NORTH DAKOTA FARM SERVICE AGENCY EMPLOYEES

● Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the 302 U.S. Depart-

ment of Agriculture Farm Service Agency—FSA—staff in North Dakota and thank them for their hard work and dedication to serving our State's farmers and ranchers.

The farm bill is perhaps the most important piece of legislation we can pass for North Dakota, and I am proud to have been a part of writing and passing it. But the work doesn't end when the President signs the bill. In fact, that is when the real work begins for hundreds of FSA employees.

Our farmers are faced with a big decision this month, when they will decide on both base acre reallocation and yield updates as well as elect which farm program they will participate in for the next 5 years.

This is a big decision for farmers, and one that will have effects on their bottom lines for the next 5 years. It is also a complicated decision. The 2014 farm bill gave producers the opportunity to tailor farm programs to their specific operation by choosing between revenue protection—at the county or individual farm level—or price protection coverage, or a combination of the two.

These important decisions are compounded for farmers with declining commodity prices and producers facing greater economic uncertainty than they have in recent years.

And that is why the FSA staff are so important. They held 307 informational sessions attended by 15,469 individuals across our State throughout the winter to update as many producers as possible on their options. And they have had long days with our farmers at the local level helping folks with base reallocation, yield updates, and program election. Producers recognize and appreciate their hard work and dedication, and I thank them for their service to our State. I have heard from farmers more than once that "the ladies in the office know what they're doing and have been very helpful."

I would also like to thank the North Dakota State University Extension Service staff for the countless hours they have put into educating producers about their options and walking them through how each program and economic scenario could affect them for the next 5 years.

Farmers and ranchers are the backbone of my State and this country. It is important that we continue to provide them with the tools and certainty they need. I thank the dedicated men and women of the Farm Service Agency who work daily to make this a reality.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, 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-856. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Department of Defense (DoD) intending to assign women to previously closed positions in the Army; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-857. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report of the National Security Education Program for fiscal year 2014; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-858. A communication from the General Counsel of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Home Loan Bank Capital Stock and Capital Plans" (RIN2590-AA71) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 4, 2015; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-859. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to South Sudan that was declared in Executive Order 13664 of April 3, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-860. A message from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the issuance of an Executive Order declaring a national emergency with respect to the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States posed by the situation in Venezuela; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-861. A communication from the Chief of the Trade and Commercial Regulations Branch, Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Extension of Import Restrictions Imposed on Certain Categories of Archaeological Material From the Pre-Hispanic Cultures of the Republic of El Salvador" (RIN1515-AE01) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 9, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-862. A communication from the Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Rural Development Loan Servicing" (RIN0570-AA88) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 6, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-863. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the semi-annual Implementation Report on Energy Conservation Standards Activities of the Department of Energy; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-864. A communication from the Supervisory Attorney Advisor, Office of Violence

Against Women, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Grants To Encourage Arrest Policies and Enforcement of Protection Orders" (RIN1105-AB43) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 4, 2015; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-865. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Section 73.622(i), Post-Transition Table of DTV Allotments, Television Broadcast Stations (Lansing, Michigan)" ((MB Docket No. 15-2) (DA 15-210)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 4, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-866. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries Off West Coast States; Coastal Pelagic Species Fisheries; Annual Specifications" (RIN0648-XD437) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 4, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-867. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries Off West Coast States; Pacific Cod Vessels Using Pot Gear in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska" (RIN0648-XD715) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 4, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-868. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of the Fountaingrove District Viticultural Area" (RIN1513-AC09) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 4, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-869. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Implementation of Sections 101, 103 and 105 of the STELA Reauthorization Act of 2014" (MB Docket No. 15-37) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 4, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-870. A communication from the Deputy Director, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; HHS Notice of Benefit and Payment Parameters for 2016" ((RIN0938-AS19) (CMS-9944-F)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 25, 2015; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-871. A communication from the Director, Employee Services, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; Establishment of the Multi-State Plan Program for the Affordable Insurance Exchanges" (RIN3206-AN12) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 27, 2015; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-872. A communication from the General Counsel, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Administrator, General Services Administration, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 4, 2015; to the Committee

on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-873. A communication from the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Certified Business Enterprise Expenditures of Public-Private Development Construction Projects for Fiscal Year 2014"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-874. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20-593, "Reproductive Health Non-Discrimination Amendment Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-875. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20-594, "St. Elizabeths East Redevelopment Support Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-876. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20-595, "Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard Amendment Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-877. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20-597, "Sonia Gutierrez Campus Way Designation Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-878. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20-598, "Closing of a Public Alley in Square 1412, S.O. 13-10159, Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-879. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20-599, "Urban Farming and Food Security Amendment Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-880. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20-600, "Notice Requirements for Historic Properties Amendment Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-881. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20-601, "U Street/14th Street, N.W., and Georgia Avenue Great Streets Neighborhood Retail Priority Amendment Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-882. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20-602, "Workforce Investment Implementation Amendment Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-883. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20-603, "Public Space Maintenance Contracting Authorization Amendment Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-884. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20-604, "Federal Health Reform Implementation and Omnibus Amendment Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.