

Linda for her service and wishing Linda, her husband Mark, and their daughter well in all future endeavors.●

**TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN ANDY BLOMME, COMMANDER DANIEL WALSH, AND LIEUTENANT COMMANDER ROBERT POTTER**

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize CAPT Andy Blomme, Chief of Congressional Affairs for the U.S. Coast Guard; CDR Daniel Walsh, U.S. Coast Guard Senate Liaison; and LCDR Robert Potter, U.S. Coast Guard Deputy Senate Liaison, for all of the hard work they have done for me, my staff, and other members of the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee over the past several years.

Captain Blomme graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in 1985. His illustrious, 30-year career includes nearly 12 years of sea duty and command of three Coast Guard cutters, command of Coast Guard Sector Jacksonville, FL, and service as Military Assistant to the Secretary of Homeland Security during the terms of Secretary Chertoff and Secretary Napolitano.

Commander Walsh graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in 1993. His distinguished career includes service aboard U.S. and allied vessels, multiple assignments as a Coast Guard aviator, and service as Military Aide to the President of the United States during the terms of President George W. Bush and President Barack Obama. Commander Walsh will next assume the Coast Guard Service Chair at the National War College in Washington, DC where he will serve as a service representative and instructor.

Lieutenant Commander Potter graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in 1999. His noteworthy career includes 2 years aboard the Coast Guard Cutter Hamilton, operational assignments at two air stations, and service as an MH-60T flight examiner at the U.S. Coast Guard Aviation Training Center in Mobile, AL. Lieutenant Commander Potter will be assigned to U.S. Coast Guard Sector San Diego where he will serve as the sector response chief.

I congratulate Captain Blomme and thank him for his selfless and dedicated service to our Nation. I wish him and his family all the best in their future endeavors following his retirement from the Coast Guard this spring.

I would also like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Commander Walsh and Lieutenant Commander Potter for all of the fine work they have done and for their continued service to our Nation. I wish them further success in the years to come.●

**MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE**

At 11:46 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, 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. 233. An act to allow reviews of certain families' incomes every 3 years for purposes of determining eligibility for certain Federal assisted housing programs.

H.R. 360. An act to reauthorize the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 301 of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1381), as amended by Public Law 114-6, the Speaker and Minority Leader of the House of Representatives and the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate jointly reappoint the following individuals on the Board of Directors of the Office of Compliance: Mr. Alan V. Friedman of Los Angeles, California, Ms. Susan S. Robfogel of Rochester, New York, and Ms. Barbara Childs Wallace of Ridgefield, Mississippi.

**MEASURES REFERRED**

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

H.R. 233. An act to allow reviews of certain families' incomes every 3 years for purposes of determining eligibility for certain Federal assisted housing programs; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 360. An act to reauthorize the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian 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-995. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2-Propenoic Acid, Polymer with Ethenyl Acetate, Ethenylbenzene, 2-ethylhexyl 2-propenoate and ethyl 2-propenoate; Tolerance Exemption" (FRL No. 9923-63) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 19, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-996. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Sodium L-lactate and Sodium DL-Lactate; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 9924-24) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 19, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-997. A communication from the Director, Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency's biennial strategic plan; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-998. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics), transmitting, pursuant to law, the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for the Department of Defense 2015 Major Automated Information System (MAIS) Annual Reports (MARs) and an index

of the 39 MARs; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-999. A communication from the General Counsel of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Housing Trust Fund" (RIN2590-AA73) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 20, 2015; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1000. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Part 90 of the Commission's Rules" (FCC 15-28) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 23, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1001. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revocation of Significant New Uses of Metal Salts of Complex Inorganic Oxyacids" ((RIN2070-AB27) (FRL No. 9924-09)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 19, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1002. 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 Plans; California; Regional Haze Progress Report" (FRL No. 9924-64-Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 19, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1003. 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 Implementation Plans; Mississippi Infrastructure Requirements for the 2008 Lead National Ambient Air Quality Standards" (FRL No. 9924-99-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 19, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1004. 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; State of Missouri; Reporting Emission Data, Emission Fees and Process Information" (FRL No. 9924-44-Region 7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 19, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1005. 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; District of Columbia; Preconstruction Requirements—Nonattainment New Source Review" (FRL No. 9924-57-Region 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 19, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1006. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Laboratory Investigations of Soils and Rocks for Engineering Analysis and Design of Nuclear Power Plants" (Regulatory Guide 1.138, Revision 3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 20, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1007. A joint communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services and

the Attorney General, transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report relative to the Health Care Fraud and Abuse Control Program for fiscal year 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1008. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the fiscal year 2014 report of the Department of Health and Human Services' Federal Coordinated Health Care Office; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1009. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Regulations and Reports Clearance, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Submission of Evidence in Disability Claims" (RIN0960-AH53) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 18, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1010. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-153); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1011. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-151); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1012. A communication from the Director, Employee Services, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Prevailing Rate Systems; Redefinition of Certain Appropriated Fund Federal Wage System Wage Areas" (RIN3206-AN10) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 20, 2015; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1013. A communication from the Federal Liaison Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Changes to Implement the Hague Agreement Concerning International Registration of Industrial Designs" (RIN0651-AC87) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 20, 2015; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1014. A communication from the Secretary, Judicial Conference of the United States, transmitting, a report relative to the Conference's Article III judgeship recommendations and corresponding draft legislation for the 114th Congress; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1015. A communication from the Secretary, Judicial Conference of the United States, transmitting, a report relative to bankruptcy judgeship recommendations and corresponding draft legislation for the 114th Congress; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1016. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator of the Office of Diversion Control, Drug Enforcement Agency, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Technical Amendments to Regulation Listing Substances Temporarily Controlled under Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act" (Docket No. DEA-406) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 20, 2015; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. McCAIN for the Committee on Armed Services.

Air Force nomination of Col. Randall Reed, to be Brigadier General.

Army nomination of Col. Brian J. Mennes, to be Brigadier General.

Air Force nomination of Maj. Gen. Mark A. Ediger, to be Lieutenant General.

Air Force nomination of Gen. Robin Rand, to be General.

Army nomination of Brig. Gen. Jeffrey B. Clark, to be Major General.

Army nomination of Col. Ronald J. Place, to be Brigadier General.

Marine Corps nomination of Brig. Gen. Burke W. Whitman, to be Major General.

Marine Corps nomination of Col. Michael F. Fahey III, to be Brigadier General.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Brig. Gen. Craig C. Crenshaw and ending with Brig. Gen. Craig Q. Timberlake, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 4, 2015.

Army nomination of Col. Paul K. Hurley, to be Major General.

Army nomination of Maj. Gen. Timothy J. Kadavy, to be Lieutenant General.

Army nomination of Maj. Gen. Stephen J. Townsend, to be Lieutenant General.

Army nomination of Col. Tammy L. Miracle, to be Brigadier General.

Army nomination of Col. Maria C. Powers, to be Brigadier General.

Navy nomination of Capt. John G. Hannink, to be Rear Admiral.

Air Force nomination of Maj. Gen. Arnold W. Bunch, Jr., to be Lieutenant General.

Air Force nomination of Lt. Gen. Stephen W. Wilson, to be Lieutenant General.

Navy nomination of Vice Adm. James F. Caldwell, Jr., to be Vice Admiral.

Navy nomination of Rear Adm. Michael T. Franken, to be Vice Admiral.

Army nomination of Maj. Gen. Joseph P. DiSalvo, to be Lieutenant General.

Army nominations beginning with Brig. Gen. John W. Baker and ending with Brig. Gen. Flem B. Walker, Jr., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 19, 2015.

Army nomination of Col. Ronald P. Clark, to be Brigadier General.

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, for the Committee on Armed Services I report favorably the following nomination lists which were printed in the RECORDS on the dates indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that these nominations lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Air Force nominations beginning with Corey E. Amundson and ending with Christopher L. Young, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 26, 2015. (minus 1 nominee: Rhys William Hunt)

Air Force nominations beginning with Christopher M. Abbott and ending with Christopher G. Zummo, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 4, 2015.

Air Force nominations beginning with Nicole H. Armitage and ending with Shannon G. Womble, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 4, 2015.

Army nomination of Jacinto Zambrano, Jr., to be Colonel.

Army nominations beginning with Cheryl D. Anderson and ending with Carlton G. Smith, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 25, 2015.

Army nominations beginning with Eugene S. Alkire and ending with Patrick R. Staresina, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 25, 2015.

Army nomination of Jacob A. Johnson, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Patrick Mascarenhas, to be Major.

Army nomination of Debra Mayers, to be Major.

Army nomination of Dwaipayan Chakraborti, to be Major.

Army nominations beginning with Eric B. Hintz and ending with Bart D. Wilkison, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 4, 2015.

Army nomination of Kathryn A. Spletstoser, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Rachel S. Theisen, to be Major.

Army nominations beginning with Robert A. Blessing and ending with Paul L. Minor, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 19, 2015.

Army nominations beginning with Joanne S. Martindale and ending with Charles Yost, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 19, 2015.

Army nomination of James L. Boggess, to be Colonel.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Andrew J. Copeland and ending with Brian A. Lionbarger, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 25, 2015.

Navy nominations beginning with Sean M. Miller and ending with Joseph B. Powell, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 25, 2015.

By Mr. BARRASSO for the Committee on Indian Affairs.

Jonodev Osceola Chaudhuri, of Arizona, to be Chairman of the National Indian Gaming Commission for the term of three years.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

#### 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. HELLER (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. FLAKE, and Mr. McCAIN):

S. 842. A bill to amend the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 to extend Interstate Route 11; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. NELSON, and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 843. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to count a period of receipt of outpatient observation services in a hospital toward satisfying the 3-day inpatient hospital requirement for coverage of skilled nursing facility services under Medicare; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MARKEY:

S. 844. A bill to repeal the medical device excise tax, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 845. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to implement security measures in the electronic tax return filing process to prevent tax refund fraud from being perpetrated with electronic identity theft; to the Committee on Finance.