

State. Those who were lucky enough to have called her their friend can attest to this fact. Her ethos is best described in her favorite saying:

You can be a part of the problem or a part of the solution. By doing nothing, you are choosing to be a part of the problem.

I am proud to honor my friend Beth, and I encourage my colleagues to join me in celebrating her memory.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### REMEMBERING MICHAEL JOHNSON

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Officer Michael Johnson, a 14-year veteran of the San Jose Police Department who was tragically killed in the line of duty while responding to a call for help on March 24, 2015.

Michael Johnson was born in Herlong, CA, where his father served as a military police officer before becoming a deputy for the Calaveras County Sheriff's Department. After moving to San Jose as a teenager, Officer Johnson graduated from Gunderson High School in 1995 and joined the San Jose Police Department in 2001, continuing his family's commitment to law enforcement.

Those who knew Officer Johnson fondly remember him as a caring and trustworthy colleague who was passionate about his work and loved the community he served. An experienced patrol officer, he was recently promoted to serve as a field training officer and advise new members of the police force. Outside of work, Officer Johnson found joy in hobbies ranging from jujitsu and baking to scuba diving and world travel. He was also an outstanding marksman, winning several awards from the Police and Fire Games.

Above all else, Officer Johnson is remembered as a loving husband and devoted family man. In 2013, he married the love of his life, Nicole, and they planned to celebrate their marriage this summer with a large formal ceremony in Santa Cruz before starting a family. My heart goes out to Nicole and Officer Johnson's parents Daniel Johnson and Katherine Decker, his step-parents Dann Decker and Penny Johnson, his sister Jamie Radack, his brother-in-law Steve, and his niece Ami and nephew Eli.

Officer Johnson's dedicated and courageous service will not be forgotten. On behalf of the people of California and San Jose, whom he served so bravely, I extend my gratitude and deepest sympathies to his family, friends, and colleagues.●

##### CONGRATULATING GALENA HIGH SCHOOL

• Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today, I wish to congratulate Galena High School on its team of students selected as a national winner in the Samsung

Solve for Tomorrow contest. The high school competition was judged based upon how well teams applied science, technology, engineering, and math, STEM, in helping the local community. Seventeen students competed on the core team; however, 85 students from Galena High School contributed to 21 projects that continue to develop as a result of the contest. The team competed with 3,100 other applicants, winning a total of \$138,000 for its achievement in being selected as a national winner. This money will be used to purchase new technology for the high school, a contribution that will help future students for years to come.

Galena High School students chose to address difficulties faced by fellow peers with disabilities. Specifically, they worked alongside two students with disabilities to bring firsthand experience and realistic application to the project. The students utilized their STEM knowledge to create innovative equipment capable of adapting to difficult scenarios relating to those with disabilities and motor skill restrictions. The students spent hours researching current technology and worked tirelessly, brainstorming and creating solutions to different scenarios and ultimately chose two successful projects. The first, a tool to help special-needs students with typing, and the second, a portable table space making it easier for students with disabilities to carry lunch. These are only 2 of 21 projects that continue to develop and will be distributed to the local community. The students are shining examples of how compassion and hard work can make a difference in the lives of others and stand as role models for future Galena Grizzlies.

I am excited to see local students bringing recognition to both Nevada and to Galena High School for their advancement in a national competition. These students should be proud to call themselves top contenders in a competitive environment. I ask my colleagues to join me and all Nevadans in congratulating Galena High School for its success and honorable representation of Nevada.●

##### TRIBUTE TO WILLIE CARL MARTIN

• Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to Coach Willie Carl Martin of the University of Alabama. After 42 years of coaching football in the Alabama public school system and at the University of Alabama, Coach Willie Carl Martin is retiring. During his high school playing days, he was such an outstanding athlete that the late Coach Paul "Bear" Bryant offered him a full scholarship to Alabama. He was the first African-American to be offered an athletic scholarship to the university. He declined the offer and went to college at Northeastern State University, where he was a second team All-American. He then played professional football in Canada for 6 years. He returned to his hometown,

Alexander City, AL; where he began his coaching career as an assistant coach, and then as head football coach at Benjamin Russell High School. In 2001, he led Benjamin Russell High School to their first and only State Championship. After 25 years of a truly outstanding and impressive career in high school coaching, Coach Martin was hired as an assistant coach and for player development by Alabama's new coach, Nick Saban, in 2007. During his 8 years at Alabama, he had an instrumental part in Alabama winning three SEC championships and three national championships.

Willie Carl has demonstrated exceptional academic and professional careers both in teaching and coaching young students. He is a loyal, dedicated individual who has always had time for his students and players. He is generous with his time with others, regardless of their station in life. He is fortunate enough to have a wife, Leslie, as well as two lovely daughters and grandchildren, who have stood by him in all of his endeavors. I know they, along with his other numerous friends and family, will join me in proclaiming May 12, 2015, as Willie Carl Martin Day in Alexander City, AL.●

##### RECOGNIZING HUNTSVILLE UTILITIES 75TH ANNIVERSARY

• Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I wish to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Huntsville Utilities, a public utility located in Huntsville, AL. Huntsville Utilities is owned by the city of Huntsville and provides water, gas, and electricity to Madison County and parts of Marshall County.

Huntsville Utilities serves a total of 49,786 gas customers, 90,665 water customers, and 174,959 electric customers. In total, Huntsville Utilities meets the utility needs of more than 300,000 customers in North Alabama. Moreover, Huntsville Utilities has more than 600 employees throughout the service area.

Water, gas, and electricity are of vital importance to families and businesses in our communities. I am honored to commemorate Huntsville Utilities for 75 years of providing this important service to the Huntsville area.●

##### 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 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 2:11 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. 622. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the deduction of State and local general sales taxes.

H.R. 1105. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the estate and generation-skipping transfer taxes, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276d and the order of the House of January 6, 2015, the Speaker appoints the following Member on the part of the House of Representatives to the Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group: Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Chairman.

The message further announced that pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 2702, the Clerk of the House reappoints the following member on the part of the House of Representatives to the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress: Dr. Sharon Leon of Fairfax, VA.

## MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 984. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide Medicare beneficiary access to eye tracking accessories for speech generating devices and to remove the rental cap for durable medical equipment under the Medicare Program with respect to speech generating devices.

H.R. 636. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend increased expensing limitations, and for other purposes.

H.R. 644. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend and expand the charitable deduction for contributions of food inventory.

H.R. 1295. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve the process for making determinations with respect to whether organizations are exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(4) of such Code.

H.R. 1314. 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.

## 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-1285. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report to Congress on the National Agriculture and Food Defense Strategy (NAFDS)"; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1286. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Judith A.

Fedder, United States Air Force, and her advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1287. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of General Janet C. Wolfenbarger, United States Air Force, and her advancement to the grade of general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1288. A communication from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), Department of Defense, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 10, 2015; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1289. A communication from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Deputy Chief Management Officer, Department of Defense, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 10, 2015; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1290. A communication from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the export to the People's Republic of China of items not detrimental to the U.S. space launch industry; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1291. A communication from the Assistant Director for Regulatory Affairs, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Syrian Sanctions Regulations" (31 CFR Part 542) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2015; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1292. A communication from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the export to the People's Republic of China of items not detrimental to the U.S. space launch industry; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1293. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Bell Helicopter Textron Inc. Helicopters" (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2015-0365) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1294. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Trawl Catcher Vessels in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska" (RIN0648-XD823) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 10, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1295. A communication from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; Quota Transfer" (RIN0648-XD799) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 10, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1296. 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; New Mexico; Transportation Conformity and Conformity of General Federal Actions" (FRL No. 9925-86-Region 6) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 10, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1297. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Truckee Meadows project on the Truckee River in Washoe County, Nevada, for the purposes of flood risk management and recreation; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1298. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Expatriate Health Plans Under the ACA Section 9010" (Notice 2015-29) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 1, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1299. A communication from the Deputy Director, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendments to Excepted Benefits" (RIN0938-AS52) (CMS-9946-F2) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 31, 2015; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1300. A communication from the Deputy Commissioner for Human Resources, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's fiscal year 2014 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1301. A communication from the General Counsel and Senior Policy Advisor, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator, Office of Management and Budget, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2015; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1302. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the report on activities of the National Guard Counterdrug Schools; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1303. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the Department's activities during calendar year 2014 relative to the Equal Credit Opportunity Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1304. A communication from the Secretary, Judicial Conference of the United States, transmitting, a report of proposed legislation entitled "Criminal Judicial Procedure, Administration, and Technical Amendments Act of 2015"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1305. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Department's activities under the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act during fiscal year 2014; to the Committee on the Judiciary.