

1890, 63 clubs officially formed the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

I am very proud to recognize a third-generation clubwoman, Babs J. Condon from Westminster, MD, as the 2014–2016 International President of the General Federation of Women's Clubs. And, I am very pleased that the 2016 international convention will be held in Baltimore next June. For the record, there are 34 clubs in Maryland and almost 1,500 club members statewide.

By “Living the Volunteer Spirit”, clubwomen transform lives each day, not simply with monetary donations, but with hands-on, tangible projects that provide immediate impact. With nearly 90,000 members in affiliated clubs in every State, the District of Columbia, and more than a dozen countries, GFWC members work in their own communities to support the arts, preserve natural resources, advance education, promote healthy lifestyles, encourage civic engagement, and support international efforts to feed the hungry, encourage immunizations and impact other lifesaving and economic development initiatives.

GFWC history includes many powerful examples such as advocacy for child labor laws, promotion of nationwide outreach that led to passage of the Pure Food and Drug Act, and working to pass the Violence Against Women Act.

GFWC has been instrumental in shaping our Nation. As it celebrates a history of 125 years, let's hope they continue to build upon their traditions and pave the way for a future filled with even greater success through volunteerism.●

TRIBUTE TO FORREST COLE

● Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I call the Senate's attention to the forthcoming retirement of U.S. Forest Service official Forrest Cole, who for the past 12 years has served as the supervisor of the Nation's largest National Forest, and probably unfortunately its most controversial one, the 16.9-million acre Tongass National Forest in southeast Alaska.

Mr. Cole, a four-decade employee of the U.S. Forest Service, began his career, following receipt of a bachelor of science degree in forestry from Northern Arizona University, working on fire-related jobs in Arizona forests. In 1979 he began what he thought at the time would be a 2-year posting working in the Tongass forest in southeast Alaska, a forest that covers an area just slightly larger than the State of West Virginia. The Coles, however, found the beauty, wildlife, and resources of southeast Alaska too attractive to leave, and the family stayed. Over the past 36 years, Mr. Cole has served as the presale forester and small sales forester on the Petersburg Ranger District in the central Tongass; as timber management assistant on the Juneau/Yakutat Ranger Districts in the northern Tongass; as the timber min-

erals, special uses management assistant on the Juneau Ranger District; as the timber and fire management staff officer and resources staff officer on the Stikine administrative area, and later as the Forest and Fire Management staff officer for the entire Tongass National Forest based in the southern Tongass in Ketchikan.

Mr. Cole also served in the regional office as director of forest management, and as part of the planning team for the Tongass land management plan, with responsibility for the timber, vegetation, and subsistence programs in all of southeast Alaska—the land plan being the key document that guides all activities in the forest. In 2003 he was named as the forest supervisor for the Tongass, a key supervisory post, second only to the Regional Forester.

Mr. Cole during his years in Alaska has been in the midst of many controversial issues such as of how much timber should be allowed for harvest; how to protect wolves and goshawks, bald eagles, salmon and bear while harvesting timber; and how to provide the recreation that Americans increasingly demand. Mr. Cole arrived in Alaska the year before Congress passed the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, ANILCA, that cut the allowable timber harvest in the Tongass by several hundred percent, from 1.35 billion board feet a year—a level that was considered its biological, sustainable yield level when modern timber harvesting began in the 1950s—to 450 million board feet that mandated by Congress in 1980. A decade later he was involved in implementing the next Tongass timber “reform” bill that once again nearly cut the forest's allowable timber forest in half, creating another six areas of wilderness, and designating another 12 new areas as congressionally protected lands, bringing to 6.48 million acres the amount of the Tongass protected from development.

As forest supervisor, Mr. Cole was required to implement the national Inventoried Roadless Area rule last decade that took another 9.5 million acres of the Tongass out of the timber base. And just this year, with passage last December of the Sealaska Native Corporation final land conveyance act, Mr. Cole has started the process of revising what lands will remain in the region's slimming federal timber base. He has had to wrestle with how to guide the timber industry's survival given that only 1.8 percent of the Tongass is still “open” to the harvesting of older-growth trees—80 percent of them having been permanently protected, and how to manage guiding, recreation, tourism, utility and infrastructure access and development in a forest that stretches 500 miles from near Ketchikan to Yakutat.

More than any other individual Mr. Cole has been a referee between many forces. And I know it can't have been a pleasant experience implementing policy set by Congress and the executive

branch, more than 3,000 miles away. It has been a hard, often thankless job managing the Tongass. I wish to publicly thank Mr. Cole for his tireless service to America in doing that job well. We have not always agreed, but I truly appreciate that he has labored long and hard to be fair. He has listened to all sides. Given the legal, political and budgetary mandates he has faced, he deserves all of our thanks for all of the difficult phone calls he has returned, all of the complaints he has patiently fielded, and for all of the tough decisions he has been forced to make. It is no wonder that Mr. Cole was the recipient of the 2008 Regional Forester Award. He deserves the gratitude of the entire Senate for doing his best to meet all of the competing demands Americans make of our national forests. And I personally thank him for his contributions and commitment to public land stewardship, community stability and for keeping the public's trust in one of America's most hotly contested regions. I think it demonstrates his love and concern for Alaska and the Tongass that he and his family are choosing to retire in Petersburg, AK. I wish him and his family well.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 9:33 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:

S. 535. An act to promote energy efficiency.

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

At 12:52 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 bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1195. An act to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to establish advisory boards, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 1195. An act to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to establish advisory boards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, April 23, 2015, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 535. An act to promote energy efficiency.

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-1362. A communication from the Associate General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of General Counsel, Department of Agriculture, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 21, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1363. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Department of Defense's Evaluation of the TRICARE Program for fiscal year 2015; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1364. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the Export Administration Regulations Based on the 2014 Missile Technology Control Regime Plenary Agreements" (RIN0694-AG41) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 20, 2015; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1365. A communication from the Counsel, Legal Division, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Submission of Credit Card Agreements Under the Truth in Lending Act" (RIN3170-AA50) (Docket No. CFPB-2015-0006) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 21, 2015; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1366. A communication from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Removal of Transferred OTS Regulations Regarding Rules of Practice and Procedure and Amendments to FDIC Rules and Regulations" (RIN3064-AE08) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 20, 2015; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1367. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Yemen that was originally declared in Executive Order 13611 on May 16, 2012; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1368. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Burma that was declared in Executive Order 13047 of May 20, 1997; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1369. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the stabilization of Iraq that was declared in Executive Order 13303 of May 22, 2003; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1370. 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; Stemme AG Gliders" (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2015-0633) received in the Office of the President of the

Senate on April 20, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1371. 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 Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Snapper-Grouper Resources of the South Atlantic; 2015-2016 Recreational Fishing Season for Black Sea Bass" (RIN0648-XD828) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 20, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1372. 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; Reallocation of Pollock in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands" (RIN0648-XD846) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 20, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1373. 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 "Determination of Housing Cost Amounts Eligible for Exclusion or Deduction for 2015" (Notice 2015-33) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 20, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1374. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a strategy for Support for Russia Democracy and Civil Society Organizations; a strategy for Assistance to Civil Society in Ukraine; and a strategy for Anticipated Defense Articles, Defense Services, and Training to Ukraine; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1375. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to overseas surplus property; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1376. 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 14-148); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1377. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Financial Report for the Prescription Drug User Fee Act (PDUFA) for fiscal year 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1378. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Performance Report for fiscal year 2014 for the Prescription Drug User Fee Act (PDUFA); to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1379. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) annual report on Drug Shortages for Calendar Year 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1380. A communication from the Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts and a Member of the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report on the Arts and Artifacts Indemnity Program for fiscal year 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1381. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative

Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs Annual Report to Congress for fiscal year 2013; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1382. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report on applications made by the Government for authority to conduct electronic surveillance for foreign intelligence during calendar year 2014 relative to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1383. A communication from the Chief Impact Analyst, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Driving Distance Eligibility for the Veterans Choice Program" (RIN2900-AP24) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 22, 2015; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-17. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of North Dakota urging the United States Congress to call for a constitutional convention for the sole purpose of proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States which requires a balanced federal budget; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 3015

Whereas, Article V of the Constitution of the United States mandates that upon the application of the legislatures of two-thirds of the states, Congress shall call a convention for proposing amendments; and

Whereas, this application is to be considered as covering the balanced budget amendment language of the presently outstanding balanced budget applications from other states; and

Whereas, this application shall be aggregated for the purpose of attaining the two-thirds necessary to require the calling of a convention for proposing a balanced budget amendment, but shall not be aggregated with any applications on any other subject; and

Whereas, this application is a continuing application until the legislatures of at least two-thirds of the states have made applications on the same subject; and

Whereas, the North Dakota Legislative Assembly deems an amendment to the Constitution of the United States requiring a balanced federal budget to be necessary for the good of the American people: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives of North Dakota, the Senate concurring therein:

That the Sixty-fourth Legislative Assembly urges the Congress of the United States to call a convention of the states limited to proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States requiring that in the absence of a national emergency the total of all federal appropriations made by the Congress for any fiscal year may not exceed the total of all estimated federal revenues for that fiscal year, together with any related and appropriate fiscal restraints; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution to the President and Secretary of the Senate and the Speaker and Clerk of the House of Representatives of the Congress, to each member