

controlled cargo containers. In addition to his many business adventures, he was very active in commercial and residential real estate development.

Sid's accomplishments and contributions to the State of Alabama have not gone unnoticed. He was elected in 2001 to the Alabama Academy of Honor's One Hundred Living Alabamians and was elected to the Alabama Business Hall of Fame in 2010. The University of Alabama also dedicated a facility on campus in his honor, Sid McDonald Hall.

I offer my deepest condolences to Sid's wife Jane Plunkett McDonald, and to all of their loved ones as they celebrate his many life accomplishments and mourn this great loss.●

#### RECOGNIZING DOWNS ENTERPRISE, LLC

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, in order to pursue the American dream in today's regulatory climate, small businesses owners and entrepreneurs require a variety of administrative and support services. Often, they are able to offer a helping hand to each other, building important relationships and creating economic opportunity across the board. Small Business of the Week, Downs Enterprise of Bastrop, LA, is providing these crucial services to fellow small businesses, entrepreneurs, and veterans throughout northeast Louisiana.

Troy Downs, founder of Downs Enterprise, LLC, has been assisting small business owners in northeast Louisiana for nearly 14 years. In 2001 Downs opened his namesake consulting business, focusing on managing, consulting, and developing local small businesses through financial, real estate, and logistical services. After nearly 10 years of success, Downs visited the Louisiana Small Business Development Center, LSBDC, at the University of Louisiana-Monroe, located in Monroe, LA, with a financial management and business development and expansion plan. Downs took advantage of all the LSBDC had to offer, attending every seminar and networking event available to him, even if not directly related to his business. Downs believed that just his being there would put him in a position to learn, and it worked—a sentiment that he now passes along to the businesses he consults. Through Downs Enterprise, LLC, Troy and his team have assisted in starting and managing over 25 successful businesses, created 50 jobs, and counseled over 100 individuals in the process of starting and maintaining a healthy business.

After years of successfully guiding individuals through the hoops of starting and maintaining a business, Downs, a 25-year serviceman of the U.S. Army, saw the need for such a consulting service geared towards our Nation's brave servicemen and women. After experiencing the difficulties servicemen and women have in adjusting back to a civilian lifestyle, the Downs Founda-

tion was born. Today, the Downs Foundation continues their original goal of assisting veterans in small business development, while also providing services in credit restoration, preparation for jobs, and counseling services. Down's work in northeast Louisiana has earned him the distinguished honor of being recognized as the 2015 Veteran Small Business Champion by Louisiana Economic Development and the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Congratulations again to Downs Enterprise for being selected as Small Business of the Week. Thank you for your continued commitment not only to your community, but also to your fellow brothers and sisters of the military.●

#### 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.)

#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:15 a.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. 880. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to simplify and make permanent the research credit.

H.R. 1806. An act to provide for technological innovation through the prioritization of Federal investment in basic research, fundamental scientific discovery, and development to improve the competitiveness of the United States, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 202(a) of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-146), and the order of the House of January 6, 2015, the Speaker appoints the following individuals on the part of the House of Representatives to the Commission on Care: Mr. David P. Blom of Columbus, Ohio, Mr. Darin Selnick of Oceanside, California, and Dr. Toby Cosgrove of Cleveland, Ohio.

The message further announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276h, and the order of the House of January 6, 2015, the Speaker appoints the following Members of the House of Representatives to the Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Group: Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. POLIS of Colorado, Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, and Mrs. TORRES of California.

The message also announced that pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 4412, and the order of the House of January 6, 2015, the Speaker reappoints the following Member on the part of the House of Representatives to the Board of Trustees of the Institute of American Indian and Alaska Native Culture and Arts Development: Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico.

#### ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 1:05 p.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. 178. An act to provide justice for the victims of trafficking.

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

At 2:36 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. 2496. An act to extend the authorization for the replacement of the existing Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Denver, Colorado, to make certain improvements in the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014, and for other purposes.

At 6:28 p.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 bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1735. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, 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. 1806. An act to provide for technological innovation through the prioritization of Federal investment in basic research, fundamental scientific discovery, and development to improve the competitiveness of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

#### MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 2353. An act to provide an extension of Federal-aid highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 1735. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for

military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

### ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, May 21, 2015, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 178. An act to provide justice for the victims of trafficking.

### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. THUNE, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

Special Report entitled "Report on the Legislative Activities of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation During the 113th Congress" (Rept. No. 114-50).

By Mr. THUNE, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, without amendment:

S. 143. A bill to allow for improvements to the United States Merchant Marine Academy and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-51).

S. 808. A bill to establish the Surface Transportation Board as an independent establishment, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-52).

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

H.R. 615. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Under Secretary for Management of the Department of Homeland Security to take administrative action to achieve and maintain interoperable communications capabilities among the components of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-53).

By Mr. ALEXANDER, from the Committee on Appropriations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

H.R. 2028. A bill making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-54).

By Mr. COCHRAN, from the Committee on Appropriations:

Special Report entitled "Allocation to Subcommittees of Budget Totals from the Concurrent Resolution for Fiscal Year 2016" (Rept. No. 114-55).

By Mr. HATCH, from the Committee on Finance, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 335. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve 529 plans (Rept. No. 114-56).

By Mr. KIRK, from the Committee on Appropriations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

H.R. 2029. A bill making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-57).

By Mr. CORKER, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment and with a preamble:

S. Res. 87. A resolution to express the sense of the Senate regarding the rise of anti-Semitism in Europe and to encourage greater cooperation with the European governments, the European Union, and the Organization

for Security and Co-operation in Europe in preventing and responding to anti-Semitism.

By Mr. CORKER, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 802. A bill to authorize the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to provide assistance to support the rights of women and girls in developing countries, and for other purposes.

By Mr. ROBERTS, from the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, without amendment:

S. 1417. An original bill to reauthorize the United States Grain Standards Act, and for other purposes.

### EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. CORKER for the Committee on Foreign Relations.

\*Paul A. Folmsbee, of Oklahoma, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Mali.

Nominee: Paul A. Folmsbee.

Post: Mali.

The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.

Contributions; amount; date; and donee:

Self: 0.

Spouse: 0.

Children and Spouses names: 0.

Parents Names: 0.

Grandparents Names: 0.

Brothers and Spouses Names: 0.

Sisters and Spouses Names: 0.

\*Cassandra Q. Butts, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

Nominee: Cassandra Q. Butts.

Post: The Bahamas (Commonwealth).

The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.

Contributions; amount; date; and donee:

1. Self: \$250.00; 2004; Barack Obama (Senate); \$250.00; 2006; DCCC.

2. Spouse: N/A.

3. Children and Spouses: N/A.

4. Parents: Mae A. Karim: \$500.00; 2008; Barack Obama (President).

5. Grandparents: N/A.

6. Brothers and Spouses: N/A.

7. Sisters and Spouses: Deidra & Frank Abbott: \$200.00; 2008; Barack Obama (President).

\*Stafford Fitzgerald Haney, of New Jersey, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Costa Rica.

Nominee: Stafford Fitzgerald Haney.

Post: U.S. Ambassador to Republic of Costa Rica.

The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by

them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.

Contributions, Amount, Date, and Donee:

1. Self: \$5,200, 2014, Kaine for Virginia; \$10,000, 2014, Democratic National Committee; \$2,600, 2014, Menendez for New Jersey; \$49,000, 2013, Presidential Inaugural.

Committee 2013: \$2,000, 2012, Democratic Party of Virginia; \$1,104, 2012, Democratic Party of Wisconsin; \$644, 2012, Colorado Democratic Party; \$1,380, 2012, Democratic Executive.

Committee of Florida: \$920, 2012, Iowa Democratic Party; \$920, 2012, Nevada State Democratic Party; \$276, 2012, New Hampshire Democratic.

Party: \$2,208, 2012, Ohio Democratic Party; \$276, 2012, Pennsylvania Democratic Party; \$40,000, 2012, Obama Victory Fund 2012; \$30,800, 2012, Democratic National Committee; \$644, 2012, N Carolina Democratic Party; \$2,500, 2012, Menendez for Senate; \$5,000, 2011, Obama for America; \$35,800, 2011, Obama Victory Fund 2012; \$30,800, 2011, Democratic National Committee; \$5,000, 2011, Gillibrand for Senate; \$5,000, 2011, Kaine for Virginia; \$2,500, 2011, Menendez for Senate; \$30,400, 2010, Democratic National Committee; \$500, 2010, Ben Chandler for Congress.

2. Spouse: Andrea R Haney: \$5,000, 2011, Kaine for Virginia; \$30,400, 2010, Democratic National Committee.

3. Children and Spouses: Asher D. Haney—none; Nava S. Haney—none; Eden N. Haney—none; Shaia A. Haney—none.

4. Parents: Sandra Haney Hogan—deceased; William Chester Haney—deceased.

5. Grandparents: Della Mae Scott—deceased; James D Brabson—deceased; Oliver Joseph Haney—deceased; Grace Tuggelle—deceased.

6. Brothers and Spouses: Joseph M. Haney—deceased.

7. Sisters and Spouses: None.

\*Charles C. Adams, Jr., of Maryland, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Finland.

Nominee: Charles C. Adams, Jr.

Post: Ambassador to the Republic of Finland.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: \$32500, 2009, Democratic Nat'l Committee; \$1000, 2009, Evan Bayh Committee; \$500, 2009, Eric Massa for Congress; \$30400, 2010, Democratic Nat'l Committee; \$1000, 2010, Bennet for Colorado; \$2400, 2010, Friends for Harry Reid; \$30800, 2011, Democratic Nat'l Committee; \$5000, 2011, Obama for America; \$9200, 2011, Swing State Victory Fund; \$5000, 2011, Kaine for Virginia; \$2500, 2011, Akin Gump PAC; \$30800, 2012, Obama Victory Fund; \$1000, 2012, Gillibrand for Senate; \$600, 2012, Clyde Williams for Congress; \$5000, 2012, Akin Gump PAC; \$1000, 2012, DSCC; \$1000, 2012, Andrei Cherny for Arizona; \$1000, 2014, Mark Warner for Virginia; \$2000, 2014, Common Ground PAC; \$500, 2014, Nunn for Georgia; \$2600, 2014, Friends of Don Beyer; \$1000, 2014, Democrats Abroad; \$1000, 2014, DSCC; \$5000, 2014, Akin Gump PAC.

2. Spouse: Vera Risteski-Adams: None.

3. Children and Spouses: Matthew Andrew Adams: \$5000, 2011, Kaine for Virginia; \$1000, 2011, Obama for America; \$9000 2012 DNC; \$13000, 2012, Obama Victory Fund; Maya Adrian Adams, None.

4. Parents: Charles C. Adams: Deceased. Florence Adams: Deceased.