

dedicated and worked his way up to chief of pararescue. He was recognized as a true innovator in his leadership position, opening the door for free-fall parachuting and combat tactics. He led by example, working diligently and earnestly to help those around him and to protect our country.

Mr. Wheeler is credited with saving 28 lives throughout his career, including vulnerable aviators who had crashed and distressed seamen in the Vietnam war. He was distinguished in his military decorations, which included the Distinguished Flying Cross for Valor, the Airman's Medal, numerous commendation medals, 17 Air Medals, and SEA services ribbons. During the Cold War, Mr. Wheeler participated in a high-risk scuba jump mission to save civilian lives. His courage and success throughout the mission earned him not only Yugoslavia's "Nation's Life Saving Award" but also the admiration of the Government and people of Yugoslavia. Mr. Wheeler retired from the U.S. Air Force in 1982. His accolades are well deserved, and his bravery in achieving them will never be forgotten.

I had the pleasure of working with Mr. Wheeler personally, as he served on my Northern Nevada Veterans Advisory Council. We worked as a team, along with the rest of the council, to help improve resources for Nevada's veteran community. Mr. Wheeler had a vast understanding of Nevada's tight-knit veteran community and was always there to take a stand for those who served. His firsthand knowledge of combat and veterans needs could never be replicated—he was one of a kind, and I am thankful to have had him as an ally in helping Nevada's veterans.

I extend my deepest sympathies to M.J. and all of Mr. Wheeler's family. We will always remember him for his courageous contributions to the United States of America. His service to his country and dedication to his family and community earn him a place among the outstanding men and women who have valiantly defended our Nation. His legacy of unwavering bravery and genuine compassion will live on for years to come.

Throughout his life, Mr. Wheeler maintained a dedication to keeping this great Nation safe and to helping Nevada's veteran community. I am honored to commend his many contributions and achievements. His patriotism and drive will never be forgotten. Today, I join citizens across the Silver State in celebrating the life of an outstanding Nevadan, Bob Wheeler.●

REMEMBERING HAROLD CASKEY

● Mrs. McCASKILL. Mr. President, I wish to honor Harold Caskey, a former Missouri State senator of Butler in Bates County, MO, with whom I had the great pleasure of serving in the Missouri General Assembly. Harold was one of Missouri's most influential legislators. Harold was known by many as

"the old lion"—a reference to his doggedness in debating. A dedicated public servant, Harold will be remembered for his love of family, his community in western and west central Missouri, and the State. Harold was blind, but he never let this prevent him from succeeding. Harold was a whip smart, strategic, loyal and hard-working man who conquered adversity. The State of Missouri has lost a special man, and he will be greatly missed and never duplicated.

Harold was born in Hume, MO, in 1938. During childhood, Harold became legally blind due to a genetic condition, but this did not prevent him from being a stellar student and becoming his high school's senior class valedictorian. He attended Central Missouri State University at Warrensburg, now the University of Central Missouri, where he graduated magna cum laude with dual majors in psychology and sociology. He then earned his law degree at the University of Missouri-Columbia, where he was elected to the Order of the Coif.

After earning his law degree, Harold started practicing law in the office of former Missouri State Senator William Cason in Clinton. In 1965, Harold started his own law practice in Butler. He was elected prosecutor for Bates County in 1967 and served three terms, ending in 1973. Harold continued his public service by serving as the city attorney for the communities of Butler and Rich Hill from 1973 to 1976. Harold was also an assistant professor in law enforcement and business education at Northeast Missouri State University, now Truman State University, in Kirksville.

Harold began his tenure in the Missouri Senate after winning election in 1976 and served for 28 years before retiring in 2004 due to newly enacted term limits. He was chairman of the Senate Civil and Criminal Jurisprudence Committee and the Senate Ethics Committee and vice chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee. In the Missouri Senate, he was a tireless advocate for rural public education and sponsored influential public school laws, such as the 1993 Outstanding Schools Act, which significantly increased state public school funding and mandated higher school standards. As a member of the Missouri Commission on Performance, Harold advised the State Department of Elementary and Secondary Education on education reform and school finance. Harold had great influence over Missouri's criminal justice laws by increasing sentences for the most violent and, at the end of his term, sponsoring a sentencing reform bill that reduced some sentences for less serious offenders. He was also a passionate leader and advocate for the visually impaired and disabled. Harold served as vice chairman of the Missouri State Capitol Commission until his passing.

Harold received numerous honors for his legislative accomplishments, in-

cluding recognitions from the Missouri Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities, the Public Telecommunications Association of Missouri, the Missouri Deputy Sheriffs Association, the Judicial Conference of Missouri, the Missouri Association of Counties, the Missouri Association of Pharmacists, the Missouri Association of Prosecuting Attorneys, the Missouri Cable Television Association, the Missouri Crime Commission, the Missouri Police Chiefs' Association, the American Business Women's Association, and the Cooperating School Districts of Suburban Kansas City.

Outside his work as an elected official, Harold's dedication to his community was passionate and unselfish as he served in countless ways, including as a member of the Rotary Club of Butler, the Missouri Bar Association, the Crescent Hill Masonic Lodge No. 368 A.F. and A.M., the Scottish Rite of Free Masonry in the Valley of Orient in Kansas City, MO, and the Ararat Shrine. He was also an honorary fellow of the Harry S. Truman Library Institute for National and International Affairs, a member of the Bates County Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees, and a member of Butler First Baptist Church.

Harold is survived by his wife, Kay; son, Kyle; sister, Velma Elaine May; and brothers, Robert, Leon, and Ray Lee. I witnessed firsthand his strong leadership and tenacious commitment to issues he cared about. I am grateful for the wisdom, knowledge, and lessons Harold shared with me. He made me a better legislator and public servant. While one might have seen Harold as intimidating or stern, he was secretly a sweet softie—kind and gentle.

I am deeply saddened by his passing and join his family and friends in reflecting on his many life accomplishments. Harold touched the lives of many and will be remembered as an invaluable public servant to the State of Missouri and an inspiration to all.

I ask that the Senate join me in honoring Harold Caskey.●

(At the request of Mr. LEE, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

RECOGNIZING THE TAMPA BAY ESTUARY PROGRAM

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize and commend the Tampa Bay Estuary Program and its historic milestone in exceeding a 23-year goal by restoring more than 40,000 acres of sea grass in Tampa Bay. This outstanding accomplishment represents the great collaborative work to restore one of the greatest treasures this Nation has to offer, Florida's Gulf Coast. The improved estuary will have an immeasurable impact on the future of the State's environment and economy.

Since its establishment in 1991, the Tampa Bay Estuary Program has partnered with the Southwest Florida Water Management District and other state and local municipalities and local

businesses to restore and protect Florida's largest open water estuary. As the Tampa Bay region is home to a population of more than 2 million people, this valuable estuary serves as a diverse ecosystem for plant and wildlife and is an economic driver for the region.

After decades of voluntary effort, I am proud to learn how successful the Tampa Bay Estuary Program was in its environmental restoration by exceeding its original goal in recovering seagrass, to improve fish and wildlife populations, and to maintain the highest quality of water since the 1950s. From 2012 until 2014, the Tampa Bay Estuary Program's efforts were able to restore 5,000 acres of life-sustaining underwater grasses in Tampa Bay, which now total 40,295 acres of seagrasses. This amount significantly surpasses its original goal set in 1995 of harboring 38,000 acres.

Although Tampa and its surrounding cities have seen an increase in population since 1950, the Tampa Bay Estuary Program's Nitrogen Management Consortium, which includes local governments and agencies supporting voluntary environmental recovery, has invested over \$500 million since the 1990s. The strategy developed by the Consortium continues to set standards that could serve as a model for and be implemented across the nation in other estuary recovery programs.

I am proud that the Tampa Bay Estuary Program aided in recovering sea grass in Florida's Tampa Bay. I wholeheartedly commend the Tampa Bay Estuary Program on its accomplishments over the past 23 years and wish it further success in its continued endeavors to protect our natural resources.●

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 2:35 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. 3192. An act to provide for a temporary safe harbor from the enforcement of integrated disclosure requirements for mortgage loan transactions under the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974 and the

Truth in Lending Act, 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), the Minority Leader appoints the following individual on the part of the House of Representatives to the Commission on Care: Ms. Lucretia M. McClenney of Locust Grove, Virginia.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

S. 2165. A bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to permanently authorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

S. 2169. A bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to extend the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, October 8, 2015, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 986. An act to require the Secretary of the Interior to take into trust 4 parcels of Federal land for the benefit of certain Indian Pueblos in the State of New Mexico.

S. 1300. An act to amend the section 221 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide relief for adoptive families from immigrant visa fees in certain situations.

S. 2078. An act to reauthorize the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, and for other purposes.

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-3085. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Trans-1,3,3, 3-tetrafluoroprop-1-ene; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 9934-74-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 6, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3086. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Dimethyl sulfoxide; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 9934-17-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 6, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3087. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Cellulose Carboxymethyl Ether, Potassium Salt; Tolerance Exemption" (FRL No. 9934-45-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 6, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3088. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmit-

ting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Butanedioic Acid, 2-Methylene, Homopolymer, Sodium Salt; Inert Ingredient Tolerance Exemption" (FRL No. 9933-74-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 6, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3089. A communication from the Acting Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fee Increases for Overtime Services" (Docket No. APHIS-2009-0047) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3090. A communication from the Acting Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Importation of Tomato Plantlets in Approved Growing Media From Mexico" ((RIN0579-AE06) (Docket No. APHIS-2014-0099)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3091. A communication from the Acting Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Golden Nematode; Removal of Regulated Areas in Orleans, Nassau, and Suffolk Counties, New York" (Docket No. APHIS-2015-0040) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3092. 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 situation in or in relation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo that was declared in Executive Order 13413 of October 27, 2006; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3093. A communication from the General Counsel of the National Credit Union Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Promulgation of NCUA Rules and Regulations" (RIN3133-AE45) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2015; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3094. A communication from the General Counsel of the National Credit Union Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Civil Monetary Penalty Inflation Adjustment—Part 747" (RIN3133-AE56) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2015; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3095. 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-3096. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13067 of November 3, 1997, with respect to Sudan; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3097. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13694 of April 1, 2015, with respect to significant malicious cyber-enabled activities; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.