

briefly ceded back to the French before it was sold to the U.S. Government during the Louisiana Purchase.

Today Arkansas Post National Memorial and Park is located in Arkansas County, AR. It was designated a National Memorial and National Historic Landmark in 1960 and was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1966. The National Park Service manages over 650 acres of park land at the site, and there is a State-managed visitors center and museum featuring display of Arkansas Post's rich history. Arkansas Post is a must-visit for any Arkansan looking to get out and enjoy the rich history of our State—especially those interested in the Revolutionary War. I would like to thank the National Park Service for its commitment to maintaining this important part of Arkansas history.●

#### REMEMBERING HILLIARD FLETCHER

● Mr. SHELBY. Madam President, today I wish to honor the life of my friend Hilliard Fletcher of Tuscaloosa, AL, who passed away on March 13, 2016. He will be remembered as a skilled businessman, a devoted public servant, and a man who deeply cared about the city of Tuscaloosa.

A native of Mobile, Hilliard graduated from the University of Alabama in 1957. He went on to serve our country as an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps and served for 14 years in the Reserves, retiring with the rank of major.

Hilliard was the president of Duckworth-Morris Insurance Company and also served with distinction four terms as finance and waterworks commissioner on the Tuscaloosa City Commission. During those 16 years, he played an instrumental role in the creation of the mayor-council model of municipal government that we know today. He was also influential in the efforts that led to Congress passing the Lake Tuscaloosa Protection Act, which prevented the Federal Government from installing a hydroelectric powerplant on Lake Tuscaloosa's dam in 1970.

In addition to his many years of service to the city of Tuscaloosa, Hilliard was a true leader in his community—serving on numerous boards and working with various charitable and business organizations. He served on the board of directors of First Alabama Bank, was the president of the United Way of West Alabama, and was president and director of the Exchange Club of Tuscaloosa. He also served as a board member and officer of the Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama, was a member of the board of directors and membership chairman of the YMCA of Tuscaloosa, and was the Chairman of the Heart Fund Drive. Hilliard was on the DCH Foundation Board, was director of the Alabama League of Municipalities, and was a deacon of First Presbyterian Church of Tuscaloosa.

Hilliard's many accomplishments, as well as his contributions to the city of

Tuscaloosa and West Alabama, will not be soon forgotten. Tuscaloosa named the city's wastewater treatment plant after him in 1998. The Community Foundation of West Alabama named him a "Pillar of West Alabama" in 2010 for his dedicated efforts and service to the area.

The city of Tuscaloosa and the State of Alabama were fortunate to have a leader and a great man like Hilliard Fletcher, and he will be sorely missed. I offer my deepest condolences to his wife, Betty; his daughter, Beth Lubin; and his sons, Douglas and Curtis, as they celebrate his many life accomplishments and mourn this great loss.●

#### TRIBUTE TO MANSOUR KARIM

● Mr. THUNE. Madam President, today I recognize Mansour Karim of Pierre, SD. Mr. Karim's life story is inspiring, and his contributions to his community and the State of South Dakota are worthy of commendation.

Born and raised in Tehran, Iran, to a poor family, Mr. Karim dreamed of moving to the United States to pursue his higher education. That dream became a reality in November of 1950, when Mr. Karim arrived at the Port of New York and New Jersey with a limited English vocabulary and only \$27 in his pocket. He had originally planned to attend the University of Michigan, but was worried that the growing Iranian immigrant population there would keep him from being immersed in the culture of the United States. He decided to study at Huron College in Huron, SD.

Mr. Karim's journey to South Dakota was challenged by the barriers of an unfamiliar nation, but he had his faith and was often helped by strangers along the way. He studied at Huron College for a year before transferring to South Dakota State College, now known as South Dakota State University, from which he graduated in 1955 with a degree in civil engineering. He would later receive his master's degree in engineering from the same school. Mr. Karim served 35 years with the South Dakota Department of Transportation in South Dakota's capital city of Pierre. Though a dedicated civil servant, he found his passion doing something he never could have done in his home country of Iran.

He invested in rental properties, starting modestly. Eventually, through hard work, wise investment, and trusted relationships, he achieved great success in providing affordable, quality rentals for residents in the Pierre area. Mr. Karim did not do this alone. His wife, Ruth, provided support to the enterprise as the two of them raised their seven children.

Ruth Karim cofounded South Dakota Right to Life and served as its executive director for 19 years. Prior to Ruth passing away in 2013, Mr. Karim worked with the Saint Mary's Foundation in Pierre to set up the Ruth Karim Endowment that would help nursing

students who value protecting the sanctity of life and fund their education at Ruth's alma mater, the University of South Dakota.

When looking back on his life, Mr. Karim is quick to recognize those who helped him move to South Dakota. He also remembers how, as a young child, he gave a beggar a penny, though he wished he had been able to give more. That giving nature has continued throughout his life, with Mr. Karim having given more than \$2 million to charities throughout South Dakota, with a focus on education and children's needs. He created the Mansour and Ruth Karim Scholarship Endowment in 2004 at South Dakota State University. Due to these charitable contributions Mr. Karim has been the recipient of many awards, including being named Pierre's Outstanding Philanthropist of the Year in 2011.

I, like the residents of Pierre and others across South Dakota, have had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Karim. His passion for the United States and the freedoms it affords and his genuine care for his community is contagious. In conversations, Mr. Karim will often say that his experience could only be possible in the United States. His story is another real-life example of the American dream as reality and what makes our Nation great, to succeed and to give back, so that others may succeed.

It is for these reasons that I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to Mr. Karim for his generous philanthropic work and thank him for making South Dakota his home.●

#### TRIBUTE TO SHUKRI JAMA

● Mr. THUNE. Madam President, today I recognize Shukri Jama, an intern in my Washington, DC, office for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Shukri is a graduate of South Sioux City High School in South Sioux City, NE. Currently, Shukri is attending the University of South Dakota, where she is majoring in political science and history. Shukri is a dedicated worker who has been committed to getting the most out of her experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Shukri Jama for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

#### TRIBUTE TO ADAM KOST

● Mr. THUNE. Madam President, today I recognize Adam Kost, an intern in my Washington, DC, office for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Adam is a graduate of Roosevelt High School in Sioux Falls, SD. Currently, Adam is attending Augustana University, where he is majoring in government and international affairs. Adam is a dedicated worker who has been committed to getting the most out of his experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Adam Kost for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

#### TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL SNYDER

● Mr. THUNE. Madam President, today I recognize Michael Snyder, an intern in my Washington, DC, office for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Michael is a graduate of Sturgis Brown High School in Sturgis, SD. Currently, Michael is attending South Dakota State University, where he is majoring in political science and history. Michael is a dedicated worker who has been committed to getting the most out of his experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Michael Snyder for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

#### TRIBUTE TO SARAH WEDEL

● Mr. THUNE. Madam President, today I recognize Sarah Wedel, an intern in my Washington, DC, office for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Sarah is a graduate of James Valley Christian School in Huron, SD. Currently, Sarah is currently attending Northwestern College, where she is majoring in journalism and history. Sarah is a dedicated worker who has been committed to getting the most out of her experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Sarah Wedel for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

#### RECOGNIZING BART'S OFFICE MOVING, INC.

● Mr. VITTER. Madam President, with the recent celebration of International Women's Day, it is fitting that we recognize hard-working women all around our country and in our local communities. There are inspiring women running small businesses all over our great State, from right out of the swamps of south Louisiana to the big cities. This week I would like to recognize Bart's Office Moving Company, Inc., of New Orleans, LA, as small business of the week for their commitment to supporting the local economy and serving as a shining example for women entrepreneurs across the State.

In 1978, with the dream of owning and running their own successful business, Bart and Kathleen Thibodeaux opened Bart's Office Furniture Repairs in New Orleans, LA. Quickly establishing a reputation for reliability and dependability with a can-do attitude, the Thibodeaux's business flourished, just as the couple began having children and building their family. When Bart

suddenly developed a chronic illness, hindering him from working, Kathleen took the reins of the day-to-day operations of running the business, keeping up the principles and quality for which the company has become so well known.

Today, Kathleen's and Bart's daughters—Ashley, Courtney, Kasie, and Alexie—have joined the family business and expanded the furniture repair shop to include a full-service office moving and office furniture installation company.

Congratulations again to the Thibodeaux family and Bart's Office Moving for being selected small business of the week. We look forward to your continued growth and success under the leadership of the Thibodeaux women entrepreneurs.●

#### RECOGNIZING DELTA INTERIORS AND GIFTS

● Mr. VITTER. Madam President, in recent weeks our State has faced disastrous storms and flooding, but with true Louisiana strength, families and communities are already banding together for the recovery. In that spirit, I would like to recognize Delta Interiors and Gifts as small business of the week whose community has rallied together to respond to and recover from the recent storms.

In 1976, John and Martha Peters founded Delta Interiors and Gifts in their hometown of Homer in northwest Louisiana with the goal of providing quality interior design services and unique gifts to clients in their community. Offering additional services in custom drapery and design in their factory in Homer, they produce draperies, hospital curtains, blinds, and other items for hotels and hospitals nationwide, from Massachusetts to Washington to California to Florida. One of their most well-known projects was providing the interior designs for the historic Waldorf Astoria hotel in New Orleans.

Today, the company boasts a statewide and nationwide clientele, largely due to their commitment to personally measuring, producing, and installing each order that many large corporations sometimes cannot provide. The company has earned a reputation among large hotel brands, enabling Delta Interiors to grow and employ more and more local workers in their manufacturing factory.

In the aftermath of a strong upper level storm system that brought dangerous thunderstorms and flooding across Louisiana this month, the Peters found themselves in a seemingly impossible situation: their life's business was literally underwater. The Homer community came together to help the Peters recover all undamaged products and remove what had been destroyed by the rising water. With friends, family, and neighbors coming to their aid, the Peters have been inspired to pick up the pieces and rebuild their small business.

In the next several months, countless businesses like Delta Interiors will put the pieces of their businesses back together again with the help of family, friends, and neighbors. As the Peters family and their team at Delta Interiors rebuild after these disastrous storms, I am honored to name Delta Interiors as small business of the week, and I wish them a quick recovery and many more years of growth and success.●

#### 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.)

#### 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-4752. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Mandipropamid; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9943-00) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 25, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4753. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Salicylaldehyde; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 9944-12) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 25, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4754. A communication from the Administrator, Rural Housing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Single Family Housing Guarantee Loan Program" ((7 CFR part 3555) (RIN0575-AD00)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 28, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4755. A communication from the Administrator of the National Organic Program, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Organic Program (NOP); Sunset 2016 Amendments to the National List" ((RIN0581-AD39) (Docket No. AMS-NOP-15-0052)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 18, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4756. A communication from the Secretary of the Commodity Futures Trading