

MONTAGNARDS OF VIETNAM

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I want to take a moment today to recognize the Montagnard community in my State of North Carolina and in other places across the Nation. I am proud to say that North Carolina is home to the largest population of Montagnards in the United States and home to the largest population of Montagnards outside of Vietnam.

Many Americans may not know about the history behind the United States's special relationship with the Montagnards, which is a history that goes back to the days of the Vietnam war. The Montagnards are an indigenous tribespeople of the central highlands of Vietnam, and during the Vietnam war, it was the Montagnards who were trained by the CIA and Special Operations Forces to fight alongside our troops against the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong.

At their own great risk, the Montagnards provided critical intelligence support to our troops on the ground, no doubt saving countless American lives. After the war, the United States took in hundreds of Montagnards into our country as refugees because of the severe persecution they faced from the Vietnamese Government for that very reason. While this indeed is a long overdue recognition, I will be submitting later this week a Senate resolution recognizing their service and sacrifice.

However, I believe our recognition of the Montagnards should not stop at what took place decades ago because even today, in 2016, the government of Vietnam continues to discriminate against them for the loyalty and assistance they provided to the United States some 40 years ago. The government of Vietnam continues to persist in its oppression of the Montagnards' basic human rights: the freedom to practice their Christian faith freely without fear of persecution and the right to education, land ownership, and a decent standard of living. This kind of persecution is well documented in the latest human rights and religious freedom reports published by the State Department and the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom.

The United States of America has an obligation to stand up for the thousands of suffering Montagnards in Vietnam—some of whom were once our comrades-in-arms. I have heard from many Vietnam war veterans in my State who can tell you how much their military assistance and friendship had meant to them. We should not look the other way; we must continue pressing the Vietnamese Government to respect their fundamental human rights. With this Senate resolution, we send a loud and clear message to the Montagnard people: you are not forgotten.

The United States can do better—we must do better—to support this marginalized tribespeople in Vietnam with whom we share a unique and historic bond.

I would ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution.

Thank you.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING DONALD "BUDDY" WRAY

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the life and legacy of Arkansas businessman and former Tyson Foods executive Donald "Buddy" Wray.

Buddy spent his life building Tyson Foods into one of the world's leading food companies. He was equally committed to serving northwest Arkansas and leaves behind a legacy as a respected community leader.

Buddy started his career as a service technician in 1961, working as the liaison for the many family-contracted farms ensuring the health of the flocks. He rose through the ranks of the company.

As a regular fixture at Tyson, his dedication led him to become the chief operation officer in 1992 and, a year later, the president of the company, a position he held until his retirement in 2000.

His commitment and love for the company led him to serve as part-time consultant, but he returned to full-time service in 2008. Chairman John Tyson says Buddy was "instrumental in everything the company did for over 50 years."

Buddy was a strong voice for the Arkansas poultry industry, always keeping the needs of the farmer close to his heart. He was named the Distinguished Alumni of the Year in 2000 by the University of Arkansas. In 2004, the university established the Donald "Buddy" Wray Chair in Food Safety within the Dale Bumpers College of Agriculture. His exemplary dedication to agriculture was noted in 2012 when he was inducted into the Arkansas Agriculture Hall of Fame. In 2015, he was inducted into the Arkansas Business Hall of Fame.

Buddy truly transformed agriculture and was an advocate for Arkansas. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife of 50 years, Linda; children Cindy, Scott, Jana; their eight grandchildren; and the rest of the Wray family.●

RECOGNIZING MARSH DOG

• Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, small businesses have the unique ability to tackle issues in their communities head on through thoughtful, innovative solutions. This week I am proud to recognize Marsh Dog of Baton Rouge, LA, as being small business of the week for their commitment to preserving and protecting Louisiana's vulnerable coastlines.

In 1998, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries placed a bounty on the nutria rat in an effort to curb the reproduction of the invasive spe-

cies, which has wreaked environment havoc on Louisiana's vulnerable coastal habitats. In response to the bounty, businesses across the State began inventing creative ways to recycle by-products of the rodent.

During this time, Hansel Harlan, the future founder of Marsh Dog, became increasingly concerned with the ingredients he found in mass market dog food products. After reading about the many recalls and the harmful ingredients circulating within the dog food industry, Harlan began toying with the idea of creating custom treats for his canine companion. After a few trial runs and on the suggestion of his sister Veni, Hansel included nutria rat meat into his recipe, creating an all-natural, eco-conscious snack his dog immediately enjoyed. Harlan and Veni, with the blessing of their K-9 taste tester, began developing and marketing the innovative product.

Today Marsh Dog enjoys great success and praise from their customers and environmental groups across the State. In addition to receiving a grant from the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program in 2011, which proved to be the endorsement that catapulted their success, Marsh Dog was also named Conservation Business of the Year by Louisiana Wildlife Federation.

Hansel and Veni embody what it means to be innovative entrepreneurs. They created a solution for two impactful problems in their community, while also growing a successful small business, is a remarkable feat that deserves celebration.

Congratulations again to Marsh Dog of Baton Rouge, LA, this week's small business of the week, and I look forward to having my rescue dog Ranger try your treats.●

RECOGNIZING PATTON'S WESTERN WEAR

• Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, often-times small businesses grow from the humblest of beginnings, providing livelihoods for hard-working entrepreneurs and their families. In rare cases, these small businesses defy all odds, building successful establishments that integrate into their adopted communities, all while supporting local economies and traditions. This week I am proud to recognize Patton's Western Wear of Ruston, LA, as small business of the week for their perseverance in building a solid and successful family-owned and operated retail group that has left its mark across the State of Louisiana.

In 2007, Robert, Patrick, and Thomas Patton used their farming background and extensive experience in retail to open their own western store in Ruston, LA. Catering to the western and oilfield communities of north central Louisiana and southern Arkansas, the Patton brothers began building a reputation for providing a diverse selection of products and quality customer service. One year later, the

brothers experienced such success that they expanded their small business and opened a second western-style store in Lake Charles, LA. In choosing Ruston and Lake Charles, which lie on opposite sides of Louisiana, the Patton brothers have since acquired a loyal clientele that includes everyone from cowboys to college students.

Today the Patton brothers manage their small business by remaining true to their western roots. They are active in the rodeo community, supporting over 100 individual rodeos each year, and have also sponsored a bull rider in the National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas, NV, for 4 years in a row. Recognized as a Best of the Delta business, the group now operates four locations throughout Louisiana, having most recently opened the doors to their newest location in Shreveport in June 2015.

The Patton brothers continue to show entrepreneurs across the country that it is possible to turn a passion into a business—even from the humblest of means. Through dedicated service to their community, exceptional commitment to customer service, and an excellent retail strategy, the Patton brothers have made their mark across Louisiana and into Arkansas and Texas.

Congratulations again to Patton's Western Wear for being selected as small business of the week, and I look forward to your continued growth and success.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA'S FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2016 BUDGET AND FINANCIAL PLAN—PM 39

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to my constitutional authority and as contemplated by section 446 of the District of Columbia Self-Government and Governmental Reorganization Act as amended in 1989, I am transmitting the District of Columbia's fiscal year (FY) 2016 Budget and Financial Plan. This transmittal does not represent an endorsement of the contents of the D.C. government's requests.

The proposed FY 2016 Budget and Financial Plan reflects the major programmatic objectives of the Mayor and the Council of the District of Columbia. For FY 2016, the District estimates

total revenues and expenditures of \$13.0 billion.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, February 2, 2016.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:13 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, without amendment:

S. 2152. An act to establish a comprehensive United States Government policy to encourage the efforts of countries in sub-Saharan Africa to develop an appropriate mix of power solutions, including renewable energy, for more broadly distributed electricity access in order to support poverty reduction, promote development outcomes, and drive economic growth, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 400. An act to require the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to submit reports on definitions of placement and recruitment fees for purposes of enabling compliance with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2187. An act to direct the Securities and Exchange Commission to revise its regulations regarding the qualifications of natural persons as accredited investors.

H.R. 2209. An act to require the appropriate Federal banking agencies to treat certain municipal obligations as level 2A liquid assets, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3784. An act to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to establish an Office of the Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation and a Small Business Capital Formation Advisory Committee, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4168. An act to amend the Small Business Investment Incentive Act of 1980 to require an annual review by the Securities and Exchange Commission of the annual government-business forum on capital formation that is held pursuant to such Act.

The message further announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 515) to protect children and others from sexual abuse and exploitation, including sex trafficking and sex tourism, by providing advance notice of intended travel by registered sex offenders outside the United States to the government of the country of destination, requesting foreign governments to notify the United States when a known sex offender is seeking to enter the United States, and for other purposes, and agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the title of the bill.

The message also announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 4188) to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal years 2016 and 2017, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 400. An act to require the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to submit reports on definitions of placement and recruitment fees for purposes of enabling compliance with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 2187. An act to direct the Securities and Exchange Commission to revise its regulations regarding the qualifications of natural persons as accredited investors; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 2209. An act to require the appropriate Federal banking agencies to treat certain municipal obligations as level 2A liquid assets, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 3784. An act to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to establish an Office of the Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation and a Small Business Capital Formation Advisory Committee, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 4168. An act to amend the Small Business Investment Incentive Act of 1980 to require an annual review by the Securities and Exchange Commission of the annual government-business forum on capital formation that is held pursuant to such Act.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

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

H.R. 757. A bill to improve the enforcement of sanctions against the Government of North Korea, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1493. A bill to protect and preserve international cultural property at risk due to political instability, armed conflict, or natural or other disasters, and for other purposes.

S. 1882. A bill to support the sustainable recovery and rebuilding of Nepal following the recent, devastating earthquakes near Kathmandu.

By Mr. CORKER, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment:

S. 2426. A bill to direct the Secretary of State to develop a strategy to obtain observer status for Taiwan in the International Criminal Police Organization, and for other purposes.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. MORAN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, and Mr. KING):

S. 2478. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to provide for the purchase of paper United States savings bonds with tax refunds; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. COATS):