

the welfare of their citizens. I am so proud of their dedication to keeping us safe in the Tar Heel State.

The mission of the Nashville Fire Department is to “protect lives, property, and the environment by providing skillful and cost effective fire and life safety services.” The Nashville Fire Department goes above and beyond accomplishing this by answering approximately 1,700 calls for service yearly for either fire protection, EMS response, or vehicle extrication. Additionally, this department specializes in trench rescue—one of the most challenging rescue events that emergency responders can face.

I salute the brave men and women of the Nashville Fire Department for 100 years of protective service to the people of Nashville, NC. Through their efforts, they make their community a better, safer place.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the tremendous accomplishments of the city of Santa Barbara, a community that has pioneered efforts in sustainability and environmental preservation for many years.

For over four decades, the city of Santa Barbara has been a leader in protecting and enhancing the local environment. In 1969, a devastating oil spill released an estimated 80,000 to 100,000 barrels of oil into the Santa Barbara Channel, resulting in public outcry over the significant damage to the ocean waters and wildlife. Local residents and civic leaders immediately began advocating for environmental reforms, and a few months later, Congress passed the National Environmental Policy Act, one of the first laws to establish a national framework for protecting our environment. Soon after, the California Coastal Commission was created in 1972 as an independent State agency committed to preserving California’s beautiful coastline.

As the Santa Barbara community grew and the effects of global climate change became more apparent, local leaders developed innovative initiatives to reduce waste, decrease emissions, and conserve natural resources. Specifically, the city imposed stormwater requirements for development projects to prevent runoff and implemented a shared-use vehicle program to reduce fuel costs and the number of vehicles in the city’s fleet. These efforts helped cut water consumption by 15 to 20 percent and reduce emissions by 10 percent, respectively. Next year, Santa Barbara will begin using a state-of-the-art water desalination facility that will reduce electrical demand and environmental impacts while supplying roughly 30 percent of the city’s water.

I want to congratulate the city of Santa Barbara for its dedicated efforts to preserve our precious natural resources. Santa Barbara’s leadership will continue to make a profound difference for generations to come.●

TRIBUTE TO BRYON J. YOUNG

• Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the career of Mr. Bryon J. Young, executive director of the Army Contracting Command—Aberdeen Proving Ground (ACC-APG). Mr. Young will be retiring after 40 years of distinguished service to the country. Throughout his career, Mr. Young has proven himself a true public servant and his leadership will be truly missed. I would like to take this time to send my congratulations to Mr. Young on his retirement and reflect upon his long career, exemplified by his hard work, dedication, and passion.

Mr. Young dedicated his career to the defense and service of his Nation and his fellow citizens. A graduate of the University of Delaware and Boston University in the 1970s, Mr. Young went on to complete degrees at the Defense Systems Management College Program manager’s course and executive program manager’s course, as well as the U.S. Army War College and the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College.

Prior to his time with the Army Contracting Command, Mr. Young served for 27 years as an air defense officer in the Army with the 101st Airborne Division and as an ROTC instructor at Princeton University. Throughout his career, Mr. Young has displayed a commitment to excellence, and his numerous commands over the years are a testament to his work ethic and dedication. Among his many commands, Mr. Young has served as director of the U.S. Army Research Development and Engineering Command Contracting Center, director of the U.S. Army Contracting Agency in Falls Church, Virginia, chief of staff to the Army Contracting Agency, commander of the Defense Contract Management Agency Raytheon, and procurement team chief of U.S. Army Missile Command. Mr. Young’s years of service and experience have benefited not only those around him, but the Nation as a whole. In his most recent role as executive director of the Army Contracting Command—Aberdeen Proving Ground, Mr. Young managed a geographically dispersed contracting center responsible for executing more than 35,000 contracting actions valued at \$11 billion.

Mr. Young’s dedication to the Armed Services and our country are evident not only from his four decades of service and leadership, but also from his numerous decorations, which include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, and the Army Achievement Medal.

Throughout his long and distinguished career in public service, Mr.

Young has always placed his community and country first. We are all grateful for his dedicated service which will long be remembered. On behalf of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and a grateful Nation, I would like to once again extend my congratulations to Mr. Young on his retirement and thank him for his decades of public service. I wish him all the best in the years ahead.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

(The message received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 9:33 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 1555. An act to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the Filipino veterans of World War II, in recognition of the dedicated service of the veterans during World War II.

S. 2234. An act to award the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the members of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) in recognition of their superior service and major contributions during World War II.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

At 1:47 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 bills, without amendment:

S. 817. An act to provide for the addition of certain real property to the reservation of the Siletz Tribe in the State of Oregon.

S. 818. An act to amend the Grand Ronde Reservation Act to make technical corrections, and for other purposes.

S. 2873. An act to require studies and reports examining the use of, and opportunities to use, technology-enabled collaborative learning and capacity building models to improve programs of the Department of Health and Human Services, and for other purposes.

S. 3076. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish caskets and urns for burial in cemeteries of States and tribal organizations of veterans without next of kin or sufficient resources to provide for caskets or urns, and for other purposes.

S. 3492. An act to designate the Traverse City VA Community-Based Outpatient Clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in

Traverse City, Michigan, as the "Colonel Demas T. Craw VA Clinic.

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

H.R. 756. An act to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to provide for the dissemination of information regarding available Federal programs relating to energy efficiency projects for schools, and for other purposes.

H.R. 875. An act to provide for alternative financing arrangements for the provision of certain services and the construction and maintenance of infrastructure at land border ports of entry, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3381. An act to maximize discovery, and accelerate development and availability, of promising childhood cancer treatments, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4150. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to allow the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to modify the hours of employment of physicians employed on a full-time basis by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

H.R. 4352. An act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program establishing a patient self-scheduling appointment system, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4680. An act to prepare the National Park Service for its Centennial in 2016 and for a second century of promoting and protecting the natural, historic, and cultural resources of our National Parks for the enjoyment of present and future generations, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5399. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that physicians of the Department of Veterans Affairs fulfill the ethical duty to report to State licensing authorities impaired, incompetent, and unethical health care activities.

H.R. 6375. An act to provide for consideration of the extension under the Energy Policy and Conservation Act of nonapplication of No-Load Mode energy efficiency standards to certain security or life safety alarms or surveillance systems.

H.R. 6394. An act to require the Federal Communications Commission to submit to Congress a report on promoting broadband Internet access service for veterans.

H.R. 6401. An act to amend Public Law 94-241 with respect to the Northern Mariana Islands.

H.R. 6416. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements in the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6438. An act to extend the waiver of limitations with respect to excluding from gross income amounts received by wrongfully incarcerated individuals.

The message further announced that the House agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the resolution (H. Con. Res. 174) directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 34.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The message also announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 795. An act to enhance whistleblower protection for contractor and grantee employees.

S. 3395. An act to require limitations on prescribed burns.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

At 5:46 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. 5790. An act to provide adequate protections for whistleblowers at the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 3516. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a best-practices peer review of each medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs to evaluate the efficacy of health care delivered at each such medical center.

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, December 7, 2016, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 795. An act to enhance whistleblower protection for contractor and grantee employees.

S. 1555. An act to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the Filipino veterans of World War II, in recognition of the dedicated service of the veterans during World War II.

S. 2234. An act to award the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the members of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) in recognition of their superior service and major contributions during World War II.

S. 2577. An act to protect crime victims' rights, to eliminate the substantial backlog of DNA and other forensic evidence samples to improve and expand the forensic science testing capacity of Federal, State, and local crime laboratories, to increase research and development of new testing technologies, to develop new training programs regarding the collection and use of forensic evidence, to provide post-conviction testing of DNA evidence to exonerate the innocent, to support accreditation efforts of forensic science laboratories and medical examiner officers, to address training and equipment needs, to improve the performance of counsel in State capital cases, and for other purposes.

S. 3395. An act to require limitations on prescribed burns.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. ISAKSON, from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and an amendment to the title:

S. 425. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for a five-year extension to the homeless veterans reintegration programs and to provide clarification regarding eligibility for services under such programs (Rept. No. 114-395).

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

S. 8. A bill to provide for the approval of the Agreement for Cooperation Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Kingdom of Norway Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy.

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

S. Con. Res. 30. A concurrent resolution expressing concern over the disappearance of David Sneddon, and for other purposes.

H. Con. Res. 40. A concurrent resolution encouraging reunions of divided Korean American families.

S. Con. Res. 57. A concurrent resolution honoring in praise and remembrance the extraordinary life, steady leadership, and remarkable, 70-year reign of King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand.

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

S. Res. 535. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the trafficking of illicit fentanyl into the United States from Mexico and China.

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

S. Res. 537. A resolution expressing profound concern about the ongoing political, economic, social and humanitarian crisis in Venezuela, urging the release of political prisoners, and calling for respect of constitutional and democratic processes.

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

H.R. 1150. A bill to amend the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 to improve the ability of the United States to advance religious freedom globally through enhanced diplomacy, training, counterterrorism, and foreign assistance efforts, and through stronger and more flexible political responses to religious freedom violations and violent extremism worldwide, and for other purposes.

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

S. 1182. A bill to exempt application of JSA attribution rule in case of existing agreements.

By Mr. THUNE, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2658. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for the Federal Aviation Administration for fiscal years 2016 through 2017, and for other purposes.

By Mr. CORKER, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment:

H.R. 2845. A bill to promote access to benefits under the African Growth and Opportunity Act, and for other purposes.

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

H.R. 4481. A bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to provide assistance for developing countries to promote quality basic education and to establish the goal of all children in school and learning as an objective of the United States foreign assistance policy, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4939. A bill to increase engagement with the governments of the Caribbean region, the Caribbean diaspora community in the United States, and the private sector and civil society in both the United States and the Caribbean, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The following executive report of a nomination was submitted:

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