

hone its efficiency and effectiveness in submarine repair.

While advancing these reforms, Secretary Mabus visited Navy and Marine Corps installations across the globe, traveling over 1.3 million miles to over 150 countries and territories and all 50 States. When measured in distance, Secretary Mabus has travelled to the moon and back almost three times. In 2009, he and I visited the hard-working men and women at BIW and PMSI together. Since that first visit, Secretary Mabus has worked tirelessly to support our shipbuilding industrial base and ensure our Navy and Marine Corps have the tools they need to succeed.

In addition, Secretary Mabus's leadership in 2010 on the Gulf Coast's long-term recovery plan following the Deepwater Horizon oil spill was exemplary. His work securing the future of the Gulf Coast made Americans and certainly his home State of Mississippi proud.

Finally, his emphasis on platforms, power, and partnerships allowed our Navy to grow in strength, but Secretary Mabus never forgot those who make the system work: the people.

Secretary Mabus was instrumental in advancing the repeal of don't ask, don't tell in 2011, a harmful policy that barred Americans from serving their country simply because of their sexual orientation. His efforts helped to ensure that all patriots who willingly answer the call to arms may proudly serve their Nation.

Similarly, as discussions on military integration have evolved with a new focus on women in combat, Secretary Mabus again stepped up to become a leader on gender equality in the military. His support for integration of women into the Navy and Marine Corps, in all occupations and specialties, and his expansion of maternity leave have ensured that women can serve in the military jobs they love.

Secretary Mabus has also taken steps to support career flexibility, continuing education, and family well-being for all members of the Navy and Marine Corps. He worked to ensure that all those who serve in uniform are provided the mental health care they need and deserve. By supporting and empowering a dedicated, intelligent, and committed personnel base, Secretary Mabus has enabled our Navy to remain the powerful fighting force that it is today.

With his retirement, we lose a true patriot who served his country as a civilian, as well as in uniform, and we lose a visionary leader who saw how our Armed Forces could be better—and did everything in his power to make it happen. It has been a personal and professional pleasure to work with Secretary Mabus, and I wish him fair winds and following seas.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO JOHN AND STEPHANIE HEKKEL

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today I have the honor of recognizing John and Stephanie Hekkel of Anaconda in celebration of the rebuilding of Club Moderne.

The bar had been considered an area landmark since its founding in 1937 and was truly a sight to behold. With its rounded front facade and Carrara glass panels, it reflected the Art Deco style of the time of its founding. It was designed by Bozeman-based architect Fred Willson and built by local carpenters and craftspeople under the direction of the first owner, John "Skinny" Francisco.

Until recently, the Club Moderne had changed very little since its opening day, and in 1986, it was added to the National Register of Historic Places.

In 1997, the Francisco family sold the bar to a close friend, longtime bartender, and Anaconda native John Hekkel who continued its legacy as a flagship watering hole, especially for area law enforcement and firefighters, while maintaining its retro atmosphere.

A recent Yelp review described taking a step inside "like walking inside a time capsule!"

Last April, it also won the top award in The Big Tap: 2016 Historic Bars Tournament Championship, an online contest sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Unfortunately, Club Moderne was destroyed in a fire in October, a tragic loss to the Anaconda community.

The night the fire happened, I understand John Hekkel stayed at the bar until 4:00 in the morning and, after the fire was extinguished, grabbed a shovel and physically helped with the cleanup.

Just this week, I was thrilled to hear the Hekkel announce plans to rebuild the bar and restore this historic establishment.

This is a true Montana story. Montanans pull themselves up by their bootstraps, even in times of hardship or loss.

I invite fellow Montanans to stop by to try whatever's on tap or a Moscow Mule, which is an Anaconda specialty.

The Hekkel, through Club Moderne, have welcomed those just passing through our State and native Montanans alike for generations. As small business owners, they have brought their community together. I wish them all my best as they restore Club Moderne and renew it as a bright spot in the Anaconda community. I look forward to visiting with John and Stephanie there when they reopen.●

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 10:29 a.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 bills and joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 21. An act to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide for en bloc consideration in resolutions of disapproval for "midnight rules", and for other purposes.

H.R. 69. An act to authorize the Office of Special Counsel, to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide modifications to authorities relating to the Office of Special Counsel, and for other purposes.

H.R. 70. An act to amend the Federal Advisory Committee Act to increase the transparency of Federal advisory committees, and for other purposes.

H.R. 71. An act to provide taxpayers with an annual report disclosing the cost and performance of Government programs and areas of duplication among them, and for other purposes.

H.R. 72. An act to ensure the Government Accountability Office has adequate access to information.

H.R. 73. An act to amend title 44, United States Code, to require information on contributors to Presidential library fundraising organizations, and for other purposes.

H. J. Res. 3. Joint resolution approving the location of a memorial to commemorate and honor the members of the Armed Forces who served on active duty in support of Operation Desert Storm or Operation Desert Shield.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 21. An act to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide for en bloc consideration in resolutions of disapproval for "midnight rules", and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 69. An act to reauthorize the Office of Special Counsel, to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide modifications to authorities relating to the Office of Special Counsel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 70. An act to amend the Federal Advisory Committee Act to increase the transparency of Federal advisory committees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 71. An act to provide taxpayers with an annual report disclosing the cost and performance of Government programs and areas of duplication among them, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 72. An act to ensure the Government Accountability Office has adequate access to

information; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 73. An act to amend title 44, United States Code, to require information on contributors to Presidential library fundraising organizations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.J. Res. 3. Joint resolution approving the location of a memorial to commemorate and honor the members of the Armed Forces who served on active duty in support of Operation Desert Storm or Operation Desert Shield; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-1. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urging the President of the United States and the United States Congress to review the changes to the Federal floodplain management regulations to assess whether exceptions should be made for potential building projects; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 421

Whereas, Blight is a growing problem in many communities in this Commonwealth; and

Whereas, Changes made to the Federal floodplain management regulations were issued by executive order in January 2015; and

Whereas, Flood insurance is now required under the executive order, making the redevelopment and revitalization of older, blighted properties financially straining; and

Whereas, Federal agencies are obligated to apply these standards to all Federal actions, including federally approved permits, federally backed home loans and flood insurance regulations and many Housing and Urban Development programs, including the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program; and

Whereas, While these changes were intended to enhance the safety and security of citizens during floods and to diminish the risk of flood loss, the modifications to the Federal floodplain management regulations have hindered the ability of our older communities to develop creative, nonprohibitive ways to renovate abandoned buildings: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the President and the Congress of the United States to review the changes to the Federal floodplain management regulations to assess whether exceptions should be made for potential building projects so that applications can be submitted to the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency for review and consideration under the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit program and so that the applications are not at an economic disadvantage; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, to the presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each member of Congress from Pennsylvania.

POM-2. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Florida urging the United States Congress to enact legislation to promote economic recovery in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

HOUSE MEMORIAL 601

Whereas, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the State of Florida share a strong

cultural bond and are important trade partners, and

Whereas, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico has experienced a prolonged and difficult economic recession that has led to mass unemployment in Puerto Rico and decreased trade opportunities with the State of Florida, and

Whereas, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico has public debts in excess of \$72 billion, which continue to cripple Puerto Rico's ability to improve and sustain economic growth, and

Whereas, the 1984 amendments to the United States Bankruptcy Code prohibit the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico from authorizing its municipalities and public utilities to file for bankruptcy relief under Chapter 9 of the code, and

Whereas, the United States Bankruptcy Code amendments require Puerto Rico's municipalities and public utilities to engage in piecemeal negotiations with each of their creditors, rather than consolidating debt and developing a comprehensive plan for repayment, and

Whereas, the citizens of Puerto Rico are suffering greatly due to their government's inability to renegotiate the terms of this debt under a comprehensive plan, and

Whereas, the United States Government has an obligation to promote and assist the economic prosperity of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico as an important territory of our nation, and

Whereas, the United States Congress eliminated a tax exemption for manufacturers from Section 936 of the Internal Revenue Code, greatly contributing to an increase in unemployment in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and

Whereas, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico would greatly benefit from new ideas and programs that promote economic development to bring high paying jobs back to Puerto Rico, and

Whereas, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the State of Florida would both benefit from Puerto Rico's renewed economic prosperity, and

Whereas, the national debt of the United States is currently more than \$19 trillion. Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

That the Congress of the United States is urged to enact legislation to promote economic recovery in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico consistent with sound fiscal principles necessary to reduce the national debt; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this memorial be dispatched to the President of the United States, to the President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and to each member of the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.

POM-3. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Michigan urging the President of the United States and the United States Congress to curb and clarify the role and authority of the United States Department of Education as it relates to the "supplement not supplant" provisions in the Every Student Succeeds Act; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 214

Whereas, The federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires that federal Title I funding to low-income students supplements, rather than supplants, state and local dollars. This provision is intended to keep local school districts from using federal Title I dollars as a replacement for state and local dollars in low-income schools; and

Whereas, To enforce this provision, the U.S. Department of Education has proposed burdensome regulations to require school districts to show that average per-pupil state and local spending in Title I schools is at least equal to the average spending in non-Title I schools. The rules allow several different options for districts to calculate spending and demonstrate compliance with "supplement not supplant"; and

Whereas, The proposed regulations exceed the legal authority of the department and blatantly trample on explicit statutory prohibitions. Specific prohibitions in the "supplement not supplant" provisions include subdivision 1118(b)(4), which says, "Nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize or permit the Secretary to prescribe the specific methodology a local educational agency uses to allocate state and local funds to each school receiving assistance under this part"; and

Whereas, School district personnel have complained that the proposed regulations would be unworkable. The School Superintendents Association (AASA) stated that the proposed regulation "glosses over the realities of school finance, the reality of how and when funds are allocated, the extent to which districts do or do not have complete flexibility, the patterns of teacher sorting and hiring, and the likelihood that many students would experience the rule, as drafted, in a way that undermines true efforts aimed at increasing education equity". Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we urge the President of the United States to direct the U.S. Department of Education to stop its federal overreach as it relates to the "supplement not supplant" provisions of the Every Student Succeeds Act; and be it further

Resolved, That we memorialize Congress to enact legislation that clarifies the Department of Education's role and authority as it pertains to "supplement not supplant" provisions; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the members of the Michigan congressional delegation, and the U.S. Department of Education as public comment on proposed rules.

POM-4. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Michigan urging the United States Congress to pass the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Education and Reform Act of 2015; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 204

Whereas, The ADA was enacted in 1990 to improve access and equality for disabled Americans. After 25 years in effect, the integrity of the ADA is in question because of the onslaught of lawsuits against small businesses due to minor and correctable infractions; and

Whereas, Small businesses provide goods and services that are vital to our economy and it is important that every effort is made to ensure disabled Americans have access to those goods and services. When there are minor and easily correctable ADA infractions, small businesses are increasingly being faced with lawsuits by individuals; and

Whereas, The threat or actual occurrence of a lawsuit places small business in the dilemma of choosing whether to settle the suit or face the potentially exorbitant cost of litigation in terms of both time and money. Additionally, plaintiffs who abuse the ADA system often file multiple cases, many with businesses and properties; and