

TRIBUTE TO ROCKY ERICKSON

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week, I have the distinct honor of recognizing Rocky Erickson for his long run as the voice of Montana sports. When traveling along the many roads in Big Sky Country or stopping in at a local watering hole for a bite to eat, if you are in earshot of a radio and that radio is tuned to local sports, there is a good chance that Rocky is on the other end of the broadcast.

Rocky grew up on his family's wheat farm in the small McCone County community of Vida. After high school, he studied telecommunications at Liberty University in Lynchburg, VA. Shortly after completing his degree, Rocky returned to eastern Montana and began to provide Montana sports fans with high quality commentary. Rocky's distinguished broadcasting career began in the early 1980s and continues today. This past weekend, he was calling the play by play for the Montana High School State Basketball Championship tournament games. Rocky's Montana sports program is broadcast daily on 40 stations, and he has been recognized by his peers as the "Montana Sportscaster of the Year" on nine separate occasions. The native son of Vida, population 70, has gone on to do great things within his industry. His broadcasts are sincerely appreciated by sports fans across Montana.

Attending a Montana sporting event helps one appreciate how valued and unifying local sports can be to our communities. Rocky has shared these treasured experiences with many Montanans by giving his audience a rich texture and personal touch in each broadcast. Thank you, Rocky, for your outstanding work, and I hope to hear you again soon.●

HONOREES OF THE 28TH ANNUAL MAINE WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME

• Mr. KING. Mr. President, today I wish to honor two exceptional women, Dr. Ann Koch Schonberger and the late Clara Swan, who are the new inductees to the Maine Women's Hall of Fame. Ann and Clara have made a vital impact on the lives of women in their communities and across the State of Maine. We celebrate their dedication to improving the lives of women in Maine.

Dr. Arm Koch Schonberger, from Bangor spent more than 20 years as the director of the women's studies program at the University of Maine and now serves as faculty emerita, focusing on women's, gender, and sexuality studies. Ann also spent many years as a mathematics professor. Ann has published numerous papers and presented at dozens of conferences on her research and experiences on the intersection between STEM careers and gender. She has also spent countless hours volunteering at the Spruce Run Womancare Alliance, helping women heal from domestic abuse and other forms of violence. Ann strives to bring

to Maine the Spruce Run mantra of "imagining communities without isolation, violence, abuse and fear."

The late Clara Swan was born in Princeton, ME, and spent her life serving as an educator, administrator, and coach. Clara touched the lives of thousands of students during her 30-plus years at the Husson University campus in Bangor. Clara herself was a graduate of the school, known as the Maine School of Commerce when she graduated in 1933. She returned to Husson in 1939, and spent 34 years as a professor and administrator. She was also a women's basketball coach for 19 years, amassing a record of 240 wins, 34 losses, and 7 ties, which included two undefeated seasons. Clara's legacy will not only live on in her former students and players, but at her former institution as well. In 2002, Husson named its fitness center in Clara's honor. She somehow found the time to volunteer at St. Joseph's Hospital, and she delivered meals to seniors' homes as part of the Meals on Wheels program. Clara lived an active life until she died at the age of 104 this past January.

Congratulations to both Ann and Clara for their induction into the Maine Women's Hall of Fame. With this well-earned honor, Ann and Clara join the ranks of Senator Margaret Chase Smith, Senator Olympia Snowe, and Senator Susan Collins, remarkable women who have inspired women in Maine and across the country. Maine is lucky to benefit from such outstanding leaders and pioneers for women in higher education. I thank Ann and Clara for their service and their many contributions to the women and communities of our State.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:06 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that pursuant to 36 U.S.C. 2302, and the order of the House of January 3, 2017, the Speaker appoints the following Members of the House of Representatives to the United States Holocaust Memorial Council: Mr. DEUTCH of Florida and Mr. SCHNEIDER of Illinois.

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following joint resolution was discharged by petition, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 802(c), and placed on the calendar:

S.J. Res. 34. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Federal Communications Commission relating to "Protecting the Privacy of Customers of Broadband and Other Telecommunications Services".

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-1015. A communication from the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Exemptions for Security-Based Swaps" (RIN3235-AL17) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 10, 2017; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1016. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Iran as declared in Executive Order 12957 of March 15, 1995; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1017. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Somalia that was declared in Executive Order 13536 on April 12, 2010; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1018. A communication from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the export to the People's Republic of China of items not detrimental to the U.S. space launch industry; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1019. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; California; California Mobile Source Regulations" (FRL No. 9959-00-Region 9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 10, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1020. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; District of Columbia; Update to Materials Incorporated by Reference" (FRL No. 9955-98-Region 3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 10, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1021. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval and Designation of Areas; KY; Redesignation of the Campbell County, 2010 1-Hour SO2 Nonattainment Area to Attainment" (FRL No. 9959-10-Region 4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 10, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1022. A communication from the Attorney, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Steel Import Monitoring and Analysis System" (RIN0625-AB09) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 9, 2017; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1023. A communication from the General Counsel, Office of the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Inspector General of the Intelligence Community received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 9, 2017; to the Select Committee on Intelligence.

EC-1024. A communication from the Acting Chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the progress made in licensing and constructing the Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1025. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of New Reactors, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Topics for Mechanical Components" ((NUREG-0800) (SRP 3.9.1)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 13, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1026. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of New Reactors, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Determination of Rupture Locations and Dynamic Effects Associated with the Postulated Rupture of Piping" ((NUREG-0800) (SRP 3.6.2)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 13, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1027. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of New Reactors, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Applicable Code Cases" ((NUREG-0800) (SRP 5.2.1.2)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 13, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1028. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of New Reactors, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Seismic and Dynamic Qualification of Mechanical and Electrical Equipment" ((NUREG-0800) (SRP 3.10)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 13, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1029. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of New Reactors, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Postulated Rupture Locations in Fluid System Piping Inside and Outside Containment" (NUREG-0800) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 13, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1030. A communication from the Chief Human Resources Officer, United States Postal Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Postal Service's fiscal year 2016 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1031. A communication from the Chairman, Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the memorial construction; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petition or memorial was laid before the Senate and was referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-11. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana memorializing the United States Congress to recognize that the Louisiana coastal area is an area in crisis and to enact federal regulatory reform and disaster recovery regulations that minimize delays in the processes by which the state of Louisiana responds to the crises faced as a result of coastal land loss and natural disasters; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4

Whereas, the citizens of Louisiana are no strangers to natural disasters and have been heavily involved in the fight for flood protec-

tion infrastructure that will protect our vital region, home to two million people who live and work at the epicenter of our nation's valuable energy, wetlands, and seafood resources; and

Whereas, Louisiana's three million acres of wetlands are lost at the rate of about sixteen square miles per year, but reducing these losses is proving to be very difficult and extremely costly; and

Whereas, Louisiana's wetlands today represent nearly forty percent of the wetlands located in the continental United States, but account for nearly eighty percent of the losses experienced in the continental United States; and

Whereas, many studies indicate that major shifts in the course of the Mississippi River over thousands of years built the land in south Louisiana through its delta building process; and

Whereas, man-made levees have contributed significantly to the degradation of the wetlands with the disintegration intensified by the channelization caused by the construction of the Mississippi River levees and man-made canals; and

Whereas, the seasonal flooding that previously provided sediments critical to the healthy growth of wetlands that sustain our deltaic system has been virtually eliminated by construction of massive levees that channel the river for over a thousand miles which in turn cause the sediment carried by the river to now be discharged into the Gulf of Mexico far from the coast, thereby depriving wetlands of vital sediment; and

Whereas, Louisiana's coastal area is critical to our nation's energy security with half of the country's oil refineries, a network of pipelines that serve ninety percent of the nation's offshore energy production and thirty percent of its total oil and gas supply, and a port complex supporting twenty percent of all waterborne commerce vital to thirty-one states; and

Whereas, these valuable and necessary human activities such as energy exploration, commercial and recreational navigation, agriculture, and development during the past century have affected the wetlands, directly and indirectly, enabling salt water from the Gulf of Mexico to intrude into brackish and freshwater wetlands and contributing to wetlands deterioration and loss increasing the vulnerability of our coastal communities; and

Whereas, the state has committed extensive resources to address this crisis, through the establishment of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority tasked with development of a state Master Plan to provide hurricane protection, coastal restoration, the reduction of saltwater intrusion, and improving hydrology throughout the coastal area by allowing water to move between the interior and exterior marshes of the system, including a mitigation plan that will create an additional one thousand three hundred and fifty-two acres of coastal marsh, and risk reduction benefits; and

Whereas, the state has substantially increased its financial commitment to the coast resulting in significant progress on projects that maintain land and reduce risk, however capricious regulatory requirements waste tax payer money, delay or deny projects, and increase risk both to the federal treasury and our citizens resulting in increased construction and emergency response costs: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana memorializes the Congress of the United States to recognize that the Louisiana coast is in a state of crisis and in need of recognition by the President and the federal government, that federal disaster attention and cooperation are acutely needed to assist the

state to better provide for the health, safety, and welfare of the people who need it most, and to increase federal investment in infrastructure that provides coastal protection in coastal Louisiana; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the United States Senate and the clerk of the United States House of Representatives and to each member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States Congress as well as the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to enable collaboration between the federal, state, and local officials to clear regulatory hurdles, and inform Americans everywhere about the value of our critical communities, ecosystems, and our unique hurricane protection and disaster recovery needs.

EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The following executive report of a nomination was submitted:

By Mr. JOHNSON for the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

*Elaine C. Duke, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

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. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. REED, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. KAINE):

S. 630. A bill to amend the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009 to make 2,500 visas available for the Afghan Special Immigrant Visa program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MARKEY:

S. 631. A bill to amend the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 to provide guidance and limitations regarding the integration of unmanned aircraft systems into United States airspace, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. NELSON):

S. 632. A bill to amend title 28 of the United States Code to authorize the appointment of additional bankruptcy judges; and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mrs. MCCASKILL, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 633. A bill to amend the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 to apply whistleblower protections available to certain executive branch employees to legislative branch employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. GARDNER (for himself and Mr. LEE):

S. 634. A bill to require reductions in the direct cost of Federal regulations that are proportional to the amount of increases in the debt ceiling; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.