

and Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2006–2007. He has also served on the staff of the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Navy, the Commandant of the Marine Corps’ Strategic Initiatives Group, and the Marine Corps Forces Central Command Coordination Element forward deployed in Bahrain. His personal decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with Gold Star in lieu of Second Award, the Air Medal with 6 strike device, the Navy Marine Corps Commendation Medal with Gold Star in lieu of Second Award, as well as numerous campaign and service awards.

While serving, Colonel D’Haiti also made numerous civic contributions and is a leader within his community. After a 7.0 magnitude earthquake devastated Haiti in 2010, Colonel D’Haiti volunteered for nearly a month with the Haiti Micah Project, working to provide hot meals and shelter to street children in Mirebalais. Colonel D’Haiti is married to the former Maxine Hall of Sharon, MA, and loving father to Elizabeth, Grace, and Benjamin.

On behalf of my colleagues in the U.S. Congress and the thousands of sailors and marines you have led and mentored, thank you. Your life and service are the hallmark of the American Dream and will be an enduring inspiration for generations of young men and women after you. I wish you fair winds and following seas in all of your future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO NEIL SMIT

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, I want to recognize a constituent of mine, Neil Smit, for his service to our country, volunteer work in the community, and accomplishments in the business world. Earlier this year, Neil stepped down as president and CEO of Comcast Cable after 7 years with the company, but he will continue to work for the Comcast Corporation in his new role as a vice chairman.

Many know Neil for his business success and acumen, but his impressive career began as a member of the Armed Forces. Neil served on Active Duty with the Navy SEAL teams for over 5 years and retired from the service as a lieutenant commander. Neil never forgot the actions of his fellow servicemembers, which is why he championed Comcast’s pledge to help Active-Duty servicemembers find jobs and make the transition into the civilian workforce. In particular, Neil spearheaded Comcast’s commitment to hire 10,000 veterans, Reservists, and their spouses, as well as improving the company’s military leave policies.

Neil is active in community service, both nationally and in the Philadelphia region. He currently sits on the executive committee of the board of trustees for the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, and he serves on the board of directors of the National Cable and Telecommunications Association and C-

SPAN, which broadcasts the Senate’s proceedings nationwide.

As CEO of Comcast Cable, Neil developed and implemented significant changes aiming to improve cable and broadband services across the country. Comcast has a strong and well-known presence in Pennsylvania, both in terms of delivering television programming and Internet service to customers and in employing thousands of hard-working individuals across a variety of careers. Under Neil’s leadership, Comcast Cable accelerated its commitment to job creation and innovation, developing new products that changed how customers consume telecommunication services. Prior to his time at Comcast, Neil displayed the same leadership and dedication to teamwork while serving in senior leadership positions at Charter Communications, AOL, Pillsbury, and Nabisco.

Today I congratulate Neil Smit on his leadership and an impressive career. I thank him for his service to our Nation and wish him well in his new role.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL H. MICHAEL EDWARDS

• Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize and commend Maj. Gen. H. Michael Edwards, who retired on March 31, 2017, after 43 years of exceptional leadership and service to our country, including 36 years in the Colorado Air National Guard.

For almost a decade in the position of the adjutant general for Colorado, General Edwards was responsible for the command administration of over 5,300 Army and Air National Guard members.

He also served as the executive director of the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs and was a member of the Governor’s cabinet.

He had responsibility for the Colorado National Guard’s primary missions of national defense and State emergency response. In addition, he was responsible for supporting the missions of the Civil Air Patrol’s Colorado Wing.

General Edwards received his commission in 1973, after graduating from the U.S. Air Force Academy, and earned his pilot wings in 1974 at Reese Air Force Base, TX.

He served as an F-4 pilot and AT-38 Fighter lead-in instructor pilot at Osan Air Base, Korea, and Holloman Air Force Base, NM, respectively.

General Edwards joined the Colorado Air National Guard in August 1980. He has served in numerous assignments in flying and operations, as well as command positions at squadron, group, and wing levels—culminating as the adjutant general for Colorado.

During his tenure as adjutant general, more than 6,000 Colorado National Guard citizen-soldiers and citizen-air-

men have mobilized in support of overseas contingency operations.

He also oversaw the Colorado National Guard’s record-setting response to some of the worst natural disasters impacting Colorado, including the High Park fire and the Waldo Canyon fire during 2012, followed by the Black Forest fire and historic flooding along the Colorado Front Range in 2013.

Furthermore, General Edwards was instrumental in bringing a new National Guard cyber protection team to Colorado, bolstering the State’s cyber defenses. He also diversified the Colorado National Guard through the appointment of its first female general officer.

Over a period of 10 years, General Edwards significantly grew the Colorado National Guard’s enduring relationships with the Republic of Slovenia and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan under the National Guard State Partnership Program.

These military-to-military exchanges have supported combatant command security cooperation objectives, promoted regional stability, and increased partner capacity and interoperability.

General Edwards has also overseen the missions of the Civil Air Patrol’s Colorado Wing, consisting of more than 1,600 volunteers. Under his leadership, the Civil Air Patrol took on a bigger role in State response, flying fire watch, and conducting flood damage surveys.

Colorado’s Civil Air Patrol was first to fly support of the U.S. Army’s on-base unmanned aerial systems operations.

General Edwards has flown over 4,600 mishap-free flight hours in a variety of aircraft to include the AT-38, A-7, C-21, F-4, F-16, T-37 and T-38.

Of note, he has achieved the distinction of the wing’s “Top Gun” award on five separate occasions in his decorated flying career.

Major Edwards has received numerous military decorations, including two Legion of Merit awards and three Meritorious Service medal awards, along with many others from the State of Colorado.

General Edwards’ operational experience, charismatic leadership, and unyielding patriotism have served him well in a lifetime of military service, both in the Colorado Air National Guard and abroad.

Today we honor his distinguished service to our Nation as one of the most accomplished adjutant generals in Colorado history.

We offer our heartfelt appreciation to his family for their countless sacrifices and selfless support to our country spanning over four decades.

On behalf of the Senate and a grateful nation, I congratulate Maj. Gen. H. Michael Edwards on a job well done and wish him the very best as he begins a hard-earned retirement in the great State of Colorado.

I look forward to our continued friendship. Thank you.●

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT HOO

• Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Robert Hoo, the founder of Nevadans for the Common Good, an organization dedicated to community and making the great State of Nevada a better place through public service. Robert was born and raised in China and moved to New York with his family after the Communist revolution. For the last 5 years, Robert has lived in Las Vegas and committed himself to the goals of his impressive organization.

Nevadans for the Common Good trains everyday citizens for public service, such as running for political office or becoming active on an issue. The organization is run by 40 generous institutions and is a collection of religious congregations, civic associations, professional organizations, schools, fraternities, sororities, and other community-based groups.

Robert understands the importance of a good and honest government that truly works for the people. Having experienced the impact of communism on his family in China, he only further appreciated American ideals, and these values fuel the work he does to this day.

Robert Hoo has taken public and community service very seriously. Before he moved to Nevada, Robert worked for a nonprofit organization in Connecticut and also for an organization that targeted neighborhood blight in East Brooklyn. The people of Nevada are very fortunate that Robert's journey took him to our State.

Lastly, Robert's dedication to finding common ground is truly admirable. In today's political environment, too often we focus on what divides us. Robert, on the other hand, chooses to focus on what unites us at the grassroots level and is committed to helping people solve real problems for others and themselves. The world needs more public servants that have Robert's dedication to helping others and making a difference.

I am both humbled and honored to acknowledge Robert Hoo for his outstanding work. His organization is making a difference for so many people who want to better our great State through public service. As the senior Senator from the great State of Nevada, I am proud to call Robert a Nevadan and applaud the work he has done and will continue to do for years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO BOBI PIKE-OATES

• Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Bobi Pike-Oates of Las Vegas for her service to our country and to the great State of Nevada. Bobi Pike-Oates served in the U.S. Air Force for 23 years, retiring with the rank of senior master sergeant. Now, even in retirement, she remains active in various groups and dedicated to helping veterans and the community.

Bobi Pike-Oates traveled the world during her time in the Air Force, serving in Hungary for Operation Joint Endeavor and in Turkey for Operation Provide Comfort. Being so far from home was, of course, very difficult, and we cannot adequately repay Bobi for the sacrifices she made in order to serve our country.

Throughout her time in the Air Force, Bobi earned awards and received recognition for going above and beyond in her service. During her time at Nevada's own Nellis Air Force Base, Bobi received the Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, as well as the Resource Advisor of the Year Air Warfare Center.

Even though she is now retired from the Air Force, Bobi Pike-Oates's commitment to serving her country remains just as strong. Currently, Bobi serves on various boards, commissions, and associations that help our veterans. Bobi is a board member for the Women Veterans of Nevada, a life member of the Air Forces Association, a charter member of the Women in Military Service for America, Air Force Sergeants Association, American Legion, life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and a life member of the Disabled American Veterans. She also serves on the State of Nevada Women Veterans Advisory Committee. Through these various organizations, Bobi continues to make Nevada proud.

I am both humbled and honored to acknowledge Bobi Pike-Oates for her service to our country. Her sacrifices and continued commitment to helping those who served makes me proud, and it is an honor to call her a fellow Nevadan. As Nevada's senior Senator, I look forward to seeing her continue to inspire others and work to help fellow veterans who, like her, make it possible for us to live in the freest nation on Earth.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS
SIGNED

At 10:58 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill and joint resolutions:

S. 544. An act to amend the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 to modify the termination date for the Veterans Choice Program, and for other purposes.

S.J. Res. 30. Joint resolution providing for the reappointment of Steve Case as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

S.J. Res. 35. Joint resolution providing for the appointment of Michael Govan as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

S.J. Res. 36. Joint resolution providing for the appointment of Roger W. Ferguson as a citizen regent of the Board of Regent of the Smithsonian Institution.

The enrolled bill and joint resolutions were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 861. A bill to provide for the compensation of Federal employees affected by lapses in appropriations.

H.R. 1301. An act making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes.

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-1203. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Monoethanolamine; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 9949-11) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 5, 2017; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1204. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Acetamiprid; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemption" (FRL No. 9959-90) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 5, 2017; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1205. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Samuel D. Cox, United States Air Force, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1206. 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; SC; Infrastructure Requirements for the 2012 PM2.5 National Ambient Air Quality Standard" (FRL No. 9960-92-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 5, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1207. 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; North Carolina; Motor Vehicle Emissions Control Program; Correcting Amendment" (FRL No. 9960-94-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 5, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1208. 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; Michigan; Part 9 Miscellaneous Rules; Correction" (FRL No. 9960-49-Region 5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 5, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1209. 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; Ohio; Removal of