

George Bush, knew he had chosen wisely when he selected Skip Gnehm for that difficult post. I got to watch on television as Skip raised the American flag at the recaptured U.S. Embassy in Kuwait.

I could go on at length about some of his other posts and the places he has served to promote and protect U.S. interests. He has been our Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations. He has also served as our Ambassador to Australia and to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, presenting his credentials on 9/11 and then flying to peace meetings with the King of Jordan. He still has special contacts throughout the Middle East.

Over the years, Skip received a number of awards for his work overseas, including the Secretary of State's Distinguished Service Award for his service in Jordan and Superior Honor Awards for his service in Kuwait and Riyadh.

Skip has also been an active force for the betterment of The George Washington University in a number of different capacities. He has been a member of the board of trustees, the vice president of the general alumni association, and the faculty representative to the board of directors.

Skip is currently on the faculty of the Elliott School of International Affairs where he is inspiring our next generation of foreign policy advisers and experts by sharing his own experience borne from a lengthy career in our foreign service. Thanks to Skip, we can rest assured that our future diplomatic efforts will be in good hands.

Looking back to those days years ago when Skip and I were spending another night hitting the books for the next day's class or exam, I don't think either one of us could have dreamed how well things would turn out for the two of us. I have been given an opportunity to represent the people of Wyoming as mayor, member of the State legislature, and now as a U.S. Senator. I was always proud to work on Skip's confirmation to these different postings. Skip has had an impact all over the world and touched more lives than we will ever be able to count.

Simply put, I couldn't be more proud of Skip and all he has accomplished over the years. I don't think anyone is more deserving of the president's medal that he will receive from The George Washington University's president Steven Knapp. Steven is doing great work to promote GW and ensure its future will be even better than its past.

This is a great honor for Skip, and I am sure he couldn't be more appreciative of this recognition. It represents a lifetime of achievements for him and an amazing list of accomplishments. As the title of the classic film reminds us, Skip has had a "wonderful life" of which both Skip and GW can be truly proud. He represents what a tremendous advantage an education at George Washington University can be when placed in the right hands.

Thank you.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING JAMES AND JOE PRATT

• Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, today I would like to remember two brothers from my hometown of Marietta, GA, James and Joe Pratt, whose lives were cut short in a tragic accident on April 24, 2017.

James and Joe were upstanding students in their community and at Lassiter High School, where they were both members of the Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps. They were loved by their family, and they were beloved by their friends, advisers, and coworkers.

James, called "Jim" by those who knew him, was 18 years old and just a few weeks shy of high school graduation. He was the JROTC unit's morale and wellness officer, and Jim had already enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. He was looking forward to beginning boot camp in a short time and later to attending Kennesaw State University.

Joe was a 14-year-old freshman and, in addition to attending school, served in the JROTC unit and was known for helping keep his friends' spirits light-hearted with his knowledge of trivia and sense of humor.

Their unit of the JROTC, the Lassiter-Pope-Kell Navy JROTC, armed exhibition drill team has performed annually at our Georgia congressional delegation's Military Academy Day. Out of respect for these young men, their unit did not perform at this year's event, held last Saturday, April 29, and instead, we held a moment of silence in their honor.

Lassiter High School and our community is in mourning over the loss of these fine brothers. My deepest condolences go out to the entire Pratt and Lago families and to our community, and my wife, Dianne, and I hold them in our prayers.●

TRIBUTE TO BERNADETTE GRAY-LITTLE

• Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor University of Kansas Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little, a chancellor who has made a significant impact on both the university and our State.

This summer, Chancellor Gray-Little will step down from her 8-year term serving as the 17th chancellor of KU. Serving since 2009, she has expanded important research opportunities, elevated the university's national stature, and transformed the way KU serves the State, and the world.

Under Chancellor Gray-Little's direction, research has increased and provided greater opportunities for our Kansas students. KU's Alzheimer's Disease Center became nationally recog-

nized, while the KU Cancer Center achieved National Cancer Institute designation and is now taking an important step in pursuing a "Comprehensive" status designation.

In her 8 years at KU, Chancellor Gray-Little has advanced the university's mission to educate leaders by implementing new admissions standards, launching a new undergraduate curriculum, strengthening scholarship offerings, prioritizing retention and graduation rates, growing the freshman class for 5 consecutive years, reinvigorating the academic environment, and making the university a true "community of scholars."

The university's growth under Chancellor Gray-Little's administration is plainly visible in the number of renovations that have taken place and the new buildings on campus. Support for Capitol Federal Hall, the Health Education Building, Self and Oswald Halls, the Central District Redevelopment Project, the DeBruce Center and the Earth, Energy & Environment Center, as well as major renovations to Swarthout Recital Hall, the Spencer Museum of Art, and Jayhawk Boulevard, all stand as testaments to her vision for the future of KU.

While her term as chancellor will be remembered for her numerous successes and achievements, Chancellor Gray-Little will also be remembered as the first female and first African-American chancellor in the university's history.

Chancellor Gray-Little has led the university with remarkable dignity, grace, and humility. She serves as a role model and an inspiration to students, staff, faculty, and colleagues throughout the State and Nation. I am grateful to have worked with her to improve the University of Kansas and our State, and I wish her well as she moves on to new endeavors.●

AMERICA AT THE CROSSROADS

• Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I want to share a poem and song titled "America at the Crossroads," written by my dear friend and fellow Floridian, JoAnna O'Keefe. She conveys a message of unity and patriotism that I believe is important for Congress and our Nation as we tackle many challenges at home and abroad. Mrs. O'Keefe's work won her the George Washington Honor Medal by the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge this year, and I am honored to share it with my Senate colleagues.

The material follows:

AMERICA AT THE CROSSROADS

(By JoAnna O'Keefe)

We the people
Are on opposite sides;
We've lost sight of the middle
Where Resolutions reside.

If Jefferson were here right now
He would pick up his pen.
On parchment he'd write:
Be Patriots again!
Look into the eyes

Of your sisters and brothers.
Be Americans!
Respecting one another.
No outside force
Will ever take this land.
But a "house divided,"
Cannot stand.
Blood has been shed
For this land of the Free
Be Americans!
Embrace your destiny.
Be that "City on a Hill."
Be that Light!
Lay down your anger.
Americans! Unite!●

RECOGNIZING TACTICAL MEDICAL SOLUTIONS

● Mr. SCOTT. Mr. President, in South Carolina, there are approximately 400,000 small businesses operating throughout the State. They represent 97 percent of all employers and have had an amazing impact on the economy. Tactical Medical Solution, TacMed, in Anderson County is certainly a testament to that and epitomizes the very best our State has to offer.

Ross Johnson, a former Army Special Forces medic, founded TacMed in 2003. Mr. Johnson started the company because he wanted to make sure as many servicemembers made it home as possible. He made it his company's mission to create the best tactical medical equipment available, so our brave men and women in uniform and first responders are better equipped to handle their day-to-day missions. Johnson says that today his company's products help "the soldier on the battlefield, the officer on patrol, and the civilian caught in an unfortunate situation."

Over a decade later, TacMed has added 40 jobs to our State's economy and has become one of the largest suppliers of high-quality medical trauma kits and components for the military, law enforcement, and first responders.

In honor of National Small Business Week, as well as Military Appreciation Month, I am excited to recognize Tactical Medical Solutions for helping to keep our bravest citizens safe as they take on dangerous jobs. Whether it is our neighborhoods' first responders or those fighting for our freedoms overseas, TacMed's dedication to saving lives everyday makes me incredibly proud they have decided to call South Carolina home to their growing business.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:28 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, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1180. An act to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide compensatory time for employees in the private sector.

H.R. 1679. An act to ensure that the Federal Emergency Management Agency's cur-

rent efforts to modernize its grant management system includes applicant accessibility and transparency, and for other purposes.

At 5:08 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agree to the amendments numbered 2 and 3 of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 244) to encourage effective, voluntary investments to recruit, employ, and retain men and women who have served in the United States military with annual Federal awards to employers recognizing such efforts, and for other purposes; and, further, that the House agree to the amendment numbered 1 of the Senate to the aforementioned bill, with an amendment.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 53. Concurrent resolution providing for a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 244.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 1366. An act to amend the Investment Company Act of 1940 to terminate an exemption for companies located in Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and any other possession of the United States; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 1679. An act to ensure that the Federal Emergency Management Agency's current efforts to modernize its grant management system includes applicant accessibility and transparency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Ms. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 35. A bill to transfer administrative jurisdiction over certain Bureau of Land Management land from the Secretary of the Interior to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for inclusion in the Black Hills National Cemetery, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 115-35).

By Ms. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, without amendment:

S. 99. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating the President James K. Polk Home in Columbia, Tennessee, as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 115-36).

By Ms. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 189. A bill to modify the boundary of the Fort Scott National Historic Site in the State of Kansas, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 115-37).

By Ms. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, without amendment:

S. 287. A bill to update the map of, and modify the maximum acreage available for inclusion in, the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument (Rept. No. 115-38).

S. 331. A bill to remove the use restrictions on certain land transferred to Rockingham County, Virginia, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 115-39).

S. 432. A bill to designate the Cerro del Yuta and Rio San Antonio Wilderness Areas in the State of New Mexico, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 115-40).

S. 466. A bill to clarify the description of certain Federal land under the Northern Arizona Land Exchange and Verde River Basin Partnership Act of 2005 to include additional land in the Kaibab National Forest (Rept. No. 115-41).

S. 501. A bill to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain segments of East Rosebud Creek in Carbon County, Montana, as components of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System (Rept. No. 115-42).

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

H.R. 534. An act to require the Secretary of State to take such actions as may be necessary for the United States to rejoin the Bureau of International Expositions, 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. CAPITO:

S. 1013. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax benefits for investments in gigabit opportunity zones; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FISCHER (for herself and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 1014. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make grants to eligible organizations to provide service dogs to veterans with severe post-traumatic stress disorder, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself and Mr. DONNELLY):

S. 1015. A bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to study the feasibility of designating a simple, easy-to-remember dialing code to be used for a national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline system; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. WICKER, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. THUNE, and Mr. WARNER):

S. 1016. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand access to telehealth services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself and Ms. HEITKAMP):

S. 1017. A bill to designate the Red River Valley Agricultural Research Center in Fargo, North Dakota, as the "Edward T. Schafer Agricultural Research Center"; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. NELSON, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 1018. A bill to provide humanitarian assistance for the Venezuelan people, to defend democratic governance and combat widespread public corruption in Venezuela, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL:

S. 1019. A bill for the relief of Luis Barrios; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mr. REED, Mr. KAINE, Mr. WHITEHOUSE,