

plays the trumpet in the marching band and the French horn in the school's concert band. He is also a member of the cross-country team and participates in track and field, where he shines in sprint relays, hurdle events, and the long jump. His ability to balance school, athletics, and Boy Scouts is truly remarkable.

Furthermore, Jakob is preparing for a future in computer programming. Like many kids his age, he loves playing video games and is interested in becoming a video game programmer. Additionally, he is part of his school's robotics club and programs robots to compete in challenging competitions. With such extensive experience at a young age, I am confident Jakob will have a bright future as a computer programmer.

Jakob is responsible and dependable and understands the importance of his family, friends, and community. Boy Scouts has had a positive impact on his life, and I know that he will serve as an excellent role model for other members of his family and friends.

In closing, I ask my colleagues and all Nevadans to join me in congratulating this new Nevada resident, my nephew Jakob Heller. I cannot be more proud of this young man, and I look forward to witnessing his many contributions to our community in the years ahead.●

#### TRIBUTE TO PAUL KASTER

● Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the distinguished accomplishment of Kansan Paul Kaster on the occasion of his 2017 National Federation of Independent Business, NFIB, Young Entrepreneur Award.

Mr. Kaster, of Leawood, KS, is the founder and owner of Crooked Branch Studio, which specializes in wood-working. I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing Paul on his outstanding achievements. I wish him nothing but the best for his future entrepreneurial and educational endeavors.●

#### MONROE COUNTY BICENTENNIAL

● Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, today I wish to pay special tribute to Monroe County, MI, which is celebrating its bicentennial this year.

Located on the shores of Lake Erie, Monroe County was founded on July 14, 1817. It is named in honor of President James Monroe, who visited the Michigan Territory in August 1817, shortly after the county's founding. The county has the proud distinction of being the second county founded in Michigan.

The people of Monroe are proud of their history. This history has inspired generations of hard-working and fiercely independent people who are committed to preserving their history, protecting their natural resources, and innovating for their future.

Monroe County is home to the River Raisin National Battlefield Park,

which commemorates the January 1813 battles of the War of 1812. The battles marked one of the greatest defeats for the United States during the war, and the rally cry, "Remember the Raisin" inspired support for the rest of the war. I was honored to help lead the effort in Congress with Congressman Dingell and Senator Levin to pass the legislation that made the park part of the National Park System. The park has now become an economic driver, attracting economic development to the surrounding area.

Monroe County is also home to La-Z-Boy Furniture, the inventors of the world's first reclining chair. The company was founded in 1927 and employs more than 6,300 people nationwide. The corporate headquarters is still based in Monroe.

One of the most famous Monroe County residents is General George Armstrong Custer, who spent much of his life in Monroe. One of the youngest Americans to ever be promoted to brigadier general, Custer is known for his successes during the Civil War and his death at the Battle of the Little Bighorn, also known as Custer's Last Stand.

As a leader of the Senate Agriculture Committee, I am especially proud of Monroe County's agricultural heritage. The county has over 270 historic farms—the most of any county in Michigan.

Numerous events and celebrations have been planned in the county throughout the year to mark this special milestone. Congratulations to Monroe County on 200 years of impressive history, growth, and success.●

#### TRIBUTE TO DEVIN MARTIN

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Devin Martin, one of my Washington, DC, interns, for all of the hard work he has done for me and my staff at the Senate Republican Conference.

Devin is a graduate of Huntley High School in Huntley, IL. Currently, he is attending the University of South Dakota in Vermillion, SD, where he is majoring in journalism and political science. Devin is a dedicated worker who has been committed to getting the most out of his experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Devin Martin for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Ridgway, 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.)

#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:29 p.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. 282. An act to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to authorize spouses of servicemembers to elect the same residences as the servicemembers.

H.R. 1058. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the role of podiatrists in the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1690. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit an annual report regarding performance awards and bonuses awarded to certain high-level employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

H.R. 1848. An act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program on the use of medical scribes in Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2006. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the procurement practices of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2056. An act to amend the Small Business Act to provide for expanded participation in the microloan program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2333. An act to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to increase the amount of leverage made available to small business investment companies.

H.R. 2364. An act to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to increase the amount that certain banks and savings associations may invest in small business investment companies, subject to the approval of the appropriate Federal banking agency, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2749. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the oversight of contracts awarded by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2781. An act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to certify the sufficient participation of small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans and small business concerns owned by veterans with service-connected disabilities in contracts under the Federal Strategic Sourcing Initiative, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3218. 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.

The message further announced that the Clerk of the House of Representatives request the Senate to return to the House the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 76) granting the consent and approval of Congress for the Commonwealth of Virginia, the State of Maryland, and the District of Columbia to enter into a compact relating to the establishment of the Washington Metro-rail Safety Commission.

At 5:34 p.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 joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.J. Res. 111. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to "Arbitration Agreements".

### MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 282. An act to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to authorize spouses of servicemembers to elect to use the same residences as the servicemembers; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 1058. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the role of podiatrists in the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 1690. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit an annual report regarding performance awards and bonuses awarded to certain high-level employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 1848. An act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program on the use of medical scribes in Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 2006. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the procurement practices of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 2056. An act to amend the Small Business Act to provide for expanded participation in the microloan program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

H.R. 2333. An act to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to increase the amount of leverage made available to small business investment companies; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

H.R. 2364. An act to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to increase the amount that certain banks and savings associations may invest in small business investment companies, subject to the approval of the appropriate Federal banking agency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 2749. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the oversight of contracts awarded by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 2781. An act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to certify the sufficient participation of small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans and small business concerns owned by veterans with service-connected disabilities in contracts under the Federal Strategic Sourcing Initiative, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

### 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-2289. A communication from the Senior Official performing the duties of the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Fiscal Year 2016 Operational Energy Annual Report"; to the Committees on Appropriations; and Armed Services.

EC-2290. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting legislative proposals relative to the "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2291. A communication from the General Counsel of the National Credit Union Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Civil Monetary Penalty Inflation Adjustment" (RIN3133-AE67) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 19, 2017; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2292. A communication from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report on the activities of the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) for fiscal year 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2293. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of General Counsel, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revision of Fee Schedules; Fee Recovery for Fiscal Year 2017" ((RIN3150-AJ73) (NRC-2016-0081)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 13, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2294. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report to Congress on Ways to Improve Upon the Part D Appeal Process"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2295. A communication from the Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Australia to support the P-8 Production, Sustainment, and Follow-on Development Memorandum of Understanding in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 17-042); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2296. A communication from the Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of firearms abroad controlled under Category I of the United States Munitions List of pistols to El Salvador in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 16-134); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2297. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Legislative Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report to Congress from the Chairman of the National Advisory Council on International Monetary and Financial Policies; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2298. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Foreign Claims Settlement Commission of the United States, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's annual report for 2016; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2299. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Office of General Counsel, Department of

Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as Amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act—Accountability and State Plans" ((RIN1810-AB27) (Docket No. ED-2016-OESE-0032)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 19, 2017; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2300. A communication from the Chair, Advisory Council on Alzheimer's Research, Care, and Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report that includes recommendations for improving federally and privately funded Alzheimer's programs; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2301. A communication from the Secretary of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Teacher Preparations Issues" (RIN1840-AD07) received in the Office of the President pro tempore of the Senate; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2302. A communication from the Chief of the Border Security Branch, Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Technical Amendments: Electronic Information for Cargo Exported from the United States" (CBP Dec. 17-06) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 10, 2017; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2303. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting legislative proposals relative to the "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2304. A communication from the Director of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "VA Veteran-Owned Small Business Verification Guidelines" (RIN2900-AP93) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 19, 2017; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-2305. A joint communication from the Interim Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Senior Official performing the duties of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense Joint Executive Committee Fiscal Year 2016 Annual Report"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-2306. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (4); Amdt. No. 3750" (RIN2120-AA65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 19, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2307. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (76); Amdt. No. 3747" (RIN2120-AA65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 19, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2308. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal