

history lesson or a lesson in parliamentary procedure. They want a government that is fair, that is reasonable, and that works.

I hope that all my colleagues—and especially the new Senators—give serious consideration to reform.

We do not need to win every legislative or nomination vote. But we need to have a real debate and an open process to ensure we are actually the greatest deliberative body in the world.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### REMEMBERING JOHN “DEPENDS ON HIM” SMITH

• Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, today I wish to honor and remember my good friend John Smith.

On Saturday, December 31, 2016, we lost one of Wyoming’s best leaders and diplomats on the Wind River Reservation. John Smith was a member of the Northern Arapaho tribe. For 27 years, he served as the director of the department of transportation for the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho Tribes of the Wind River Reservation. Mr. Smith played a major role passing transportation legislation that will save and improve lives on the Wind River Reservation and across tribal communities.

John was a wonderful friend and a wonderful man. I admired him greatly for his big heart, his warmth, and his larger than life personality. John cared deeply about the lives of people who lived and traveled through the Wind River Reservation. John’s commitment to improving his community’s roads can be seen today all over the Wind River Reservation. He was a hard worker, innovative and creative. He was always doing more with less. His jokes and sense of humor always made that hard work a little easier. Indian country did not have a better advocate or finer person to represent them in Washington, DC.

Since John’s work ethic and personality were so big, he naturally lived up to his nickname “Big John” in every respect. As a former football and basketball player, you could see Big John coming from blocks away.

In 2014, John was in Washington, DC, to receive the White House Champions of Change award from the Secretary of Transportation, Anthony Foxx. Big John was being recognized for bringing tribal, State, and local leaders together to complete construction of the notorious 17 Mile Road. When he received the award, Big John took off his cowboy hat and placed it on the head of Secretary Foxx. The unforgettable smile on Big John lit up the room with laughter. This special man left a lasting impression on all those who had the privilege of working with him.

Last April, John testified before the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. He talked about dangerous roads that were costing lives in tribal commu-

nities. His testimony led to important legislation being passed to improve those roads. His efforts not only changed lives, it saved them, and we are all grateful. It has been an honor and privilege to work with Big John on highway bills. It has been a higher honor to be his friend.

John leaves big boots to fill, and I am confident the Wind River community will fill those boots and continue his hard work.

As we lift up our hearts and celebrate Big John’s life, we also thank him for his selfless service on behalf of the people of Wyoming. Big John, thank you, and we will miss you.●

##### TRIBUTE TO SHELBY GARDNER

• Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I would like to recognize Shelby Gardner, of Warren, AK, as this week’s Arkansan of the Week, for her work with the Arkansas Veterans Hospital posttraumatic stress disorder program in Little Rock.

Shelby is a senior at Warren High School in Bradley County and is proof that you are never too young to give back to your community. Shelby wanted to find a way to honor the men and women who put their lives on the line for our safety: our veterans. Specifically, she wanted to help those veterans who suffer from posttraumatic stress.

After learning about the Arkansas Veterans Hospital posttraumatic stress disorder program, Shelby began to talk with anyone who would listen about the program—friends and family, her church congregation, civic clubs, and other organizations across Warren and Bradley County. She told them about her passion for helping veterans, the good work this program does, and how much it would benefit from additional support.

Her hard work paid off. With the help of a local auctioneer, Shelby organized a community bake sale auction and managed to raise \$8,000 for the Arkansas Veterans Hospital. But Shelby wasn’t finished. She and a group of other volunteers spent hours preparing and selling sandwiches at the Bradley County fair and raised an additional \$2,000, for a grand total of \$10,000 for veterans suffering from posttraumatic stress.

A veteran in Shelby’s community was struck by her commitment to such a noble cause and in his nomination of Shelby wrote: “Her actions are proof that patriotism runs deep in small town America. She is an exceptional representative of many young people in our nation deeply committed to the men and women who serve protecting and defending our nation and our way of life. Shelby is a shining example of the caliber of young person this country requires to ensure the survival of our nation and our values. She is a focused, goal oriented young woman who is a credit to her family, her church, her community, her state and nation.”

I am equally as inspired by Shelby’s hard work and her commitment to our veterans. Patriotism does indeed run deep in a State like Arkansas. Now, because of her efforts, the Veterans Hospital in Little Rock can better serve Arkansans who suffer from PTSD.

It is an honor to recognize Shelby Gardner as Arkansan of the Week, and I am thankful for people like Shelby who, using the resources around them, work to make others’ lives better.●

##### TRIBUTE TO ARLENE MATHEWS

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I wish to recognize Arlene Mathews of Helena, MT, for her 63 years of volunteer service at St. Peter’s Hospital.

In a basement in 1953, Arlene began the “Sock Sew,” which makes socks for newborn babies who are born in December at St. Peter’s Hospital to take home.

This year, Arlene and volunteers sitting at 20 sewing machines cut, sewed, and glued 100 large stockings for the newborns and another 100 smaller stockings for patients at St. Peter’s whose Christmas Eve is spent in the hospital. This is a wonderful gesture that made their Christmas in the hospital just a little bit better. Thank you, Arlene, for thinking of those in the hospital, especially during the Christmas season.

I am thrilled to honor our unsung hero, Arlene Mathews, for her 63-year service to her community.●

##### 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 12:04 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, 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. 27. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to retain a copy of any reprimand or admonishment received by an employee of the Department in the permanent record of the employee.

H.R. 28. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to adopt and implement a standard identification protocol for use in the tracking and procurement of biological

implants by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolutions, without amendment:

S. Con. Res. 1. Concurrent resolution extending the life of the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies.

S. Con. Res. 2. Concurrent resolution to provide for the counting on January 6, 2017, of the electoral votes for President and Vice President of the United States.

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. 1. Concurrent resolution regarding consent to assemble outside the seat of government.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to H. Res. 1, resolving that Karen L. Haas of the State of Maryland, be, and is hereby, chosen Clerk of the House of Representatives; that Paul D. Irving of the State of Florida be, and is hereby, chosen Sergeant-at-Arms of the House of Representatives; that Philip George Kiko of the State of Ohio be, and is hereby, chosen Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives; and that Father Patrick J. Conroy of the State of Oregon be, and is hereby, chosen Chaplain of the House of Representatives.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to H. Res. 2, resolving that the Senate be informed that a quorum of the House of Representatives has assembled; that PAUL D. RYAN, a Representative of the State of Wisconsin, has been elected Speaker; and that Karen L. Haas, a citizen of the State of Maryland, has been elected Clerk of the House of Representatives of the One Hundred Fifteenth Congress.

The message also announced that pursuant to House Resolution 3, the Speaker appoints the following Members of the House of Representatives to join a committee on the part of the Senate to notify the President of the United States that a quorum of each House has assembled and that Congress is ready to receive any communication that he may be pleased to make: Mr. MCCARTHY of California and Ms. PELOSI of California.

The message further announced that pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 1024(a), and the order of the House of today, the Speaker appoints the following Member of the House of Representatives to the Joint Economic Committee: Mr. TIBERI of Ohio.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 27. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to retain a copy of any reprimand or admonishment received by an employee of the Department in the permanent record of the employee; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 28. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to adopt and implement a standard identification protocol for use in the tracking and procurement of biological implants by the Department of Veterans Affairs, 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-1. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Bifenthrin; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions" (FRL No. 9954-47) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 14, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Pesticides; Certification of Pesticide Applicators" (FRL No. 9956-70) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 14, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3. A communication from the Administrator of the Specialty Crops Program, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Changes to Reporting and Notification Requirements and Other Clarifying Changes for Imported Fruits, Vegetables, and Specialty Crops" (Docket No. AMS-SC-16-0083) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 16, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4. A communication from the Secretary of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Aggregation of Positions" (RIN3038-AD82) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 16, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5. A communication from the Chief of the Planning and Regulatory Affairs Branch, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Photo Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) Card Implementation Requirements" (RIN0584-AE45) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6. A communication from the Chief of the Planning and Regulatory Affairs Branch, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Enhancing Retailer Standards in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)" (RIN0584-AE27) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule en-

titled "Flumioxazin; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9955-45) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-8. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Forest System Land Management Planning" (RIN0596-AD28) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-9. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: New Qualifying Country—Estonia" ((RIN0750-AJ18) (DFARS Case 2017-D001)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 15, 2016; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-10. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Contract Financing" ((RIN0750-AI90) (DFARS Case 2015-D026)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 15, 2016; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-11. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children" (RIN0790-AJ33) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2016; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-12. A communication from the Chairman of the Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a violation of the Antideficiency Act; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-13. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Iran-Related Multilateral Sanctions Regime Efforts" covering the period February 7, 2016 to August 6, 2016; to the Committees on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; Finance; and Foreign Relations.

EC-14. A communication from the Administrator of the Specialty Crops Program, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Domestic Dates Produced or Packed in Riverside County, California; Decreased Assessment Rate" (Docket No. AMS-SC-16-0084) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 29, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-15. A communication from the Administrator of the Specialty Crops Program, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Almonds Grown in California; Increased Assessment Rate" (Docket No. AMS-SC-16-0045) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 29, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-16. A communication from the Administrator of the Specialty Crops Program, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of