

Kansas, and America was a young democracy—isolated and protected by two vast oceans.

Over the course of his career, America matured both politically and culturally, like that young man who left Abilene, Kansas, to go to West Point.

By the time Eisenhower retired from public life, the United States was the leader of the free world and at the summit of historic prosperity and peace.

It has taken a long time for the historians to discover and figure out Eisenhower's greatness. President Eisenhower anticipated problems and averted them before they ever became a crisis. His steady hand, his quiet strategy, didn't draw attention like the administrations that followed him.

Now, six decades later, for that kind of unique leadership, he is considered one of our greatest presidents, which is why we are here today.

Like Lincoln, he came from very humble origins. He never forgot the hometown that made him, and famously said, "The proudest thing I can claim is that I am from Abilene" (June 22, 1945, Abilene, Kansas).

He saw the promise that America holds for everyone and the reciprocal responsibility to serve the country that offered him so much.

Ike's values were America's values—strength, humility, discipline, integrity.

Now, we live in an era where it can seem those things no longer matter.

But they do.

We wouldn't be where we are today without them.

We are here today to ensure Ike's place in American and world history, for his achievements both as Supreme Allied Commander Europe and as the 34th President of the United States.

When asked about his legacy, Eisenhower responded, "The United States never lost a soldier or a foot of ground in my administration. We kept the peace. People asked how it happened—by God, it didn't just happen, I'll tell you that."

We build this memorial today not only to honor a single person, but as a symbol for all generations of the greatness of America and what our values have made possible at home and abroad.

Lest anyone forget what can be achieved in the land of the free and the home of the brave, let them come here and understand what Eisenhower, and America, have done. And what they, in turn, can do for themselves and for our nation's future.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:45 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. 3043. An act to modernize hydropower policy, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3705. An act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to require the use of certified mail and plain language in certain debt collection activities.

H.R. 4173. An act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study on the Veterans Crisis Line.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 2:08, p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 194. An act to ensure the effective processing of mail by Federal agencies, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3243. An act to amend title 40, United States Code, to eliminate the sunset of certain provisions relating to information technology, to amend the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 to extend the sunset relating to the Federal Data Center Consolidation Initiative, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 3043. An act to modernize hydropower policy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 3705. An act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to require the use of certified mail and plain language in certain debt collection activities; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 4173. An act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study on the Veterans Crisis Line; 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-3418. A communication from the Assistant Director for Regulatory Affairs, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Cuban Assets Control Regulations" (31 CFR Part 515) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 8, 2017; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3419. A communication from the General Counsel of the National Credit Union Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Credit Union Occupancy, Planning, and Disposal of Acquired and Abandoned Premises; Incidental Powers" (RIN3133-AE54) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 8, 2017; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3420. A communication from the White House Liaison, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary, Office for Civil Rights, Department of Education, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 8, 2017; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3421. A communication from the Secretary of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Health Education Assistance Loan (HEAL) Program" (RIN1840-AD21) received in the Office of the President pro tempore of the Senate; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3422. A communication from the Chairman of the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Buy American Act Report for fiscal year 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3423. A communication from the Vice Chairman of the Merit Systems Protection Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's Strategic Plan for fiscal years 2018-

2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3424. A communication from the Director of the National Gallery of Art, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Gallery's Inspector General Report for fiscal year 2017; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3425. A communication from the Director, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to applications for delayed-notice search warrants and extensions during fiscal year 2016; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-3426. A communication from the Deputy General Counsel, Office of Government Contracting and Business Development, Small Business Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "HUBZone and Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act (PROMESA) Amendments" (RIN3245-AG92) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 8, 2017; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

EC-3427. A communication from the Office Program Manager, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Schedule for Rating Disabilities; The Endocrine System" (RIN2900-AO44) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 7, 2017; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-3428. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Homeless Veterans" (RIN2900-AQ07) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 7, 2017; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-3429. A communication from the Bureau Chief, International Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Update to Parts 2 and 25 Concerning Non-Geostationary, Fixed-Satellite Service Systems and Related Matters" ((FCC 17-122) (IB Docket No. 16-408)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 8, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3430. A communication from the Acting Chairman of the Office of Proceedings, Surface Transportation Board, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the Cost-of-Capital Composite Railroad Criteria" ((RIN2140-AB38) (Docket No. EP 644)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 8, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3431. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Prohibition of Children's Toys and Child Care Articles Containing Specified Phthalates" ((16 CFR Part 1307) (Docket No. CPSC-2014-0033)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 8, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3432. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Elimination of Main Studio Rule" ((FCC 17-137) (MB Docket No. 17-106)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 8, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3433. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting proposed legislation entitled "Coast

Guard Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018"; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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-137. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of California relative to women's reproductive health; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 12

Whereas, January 22, 2017, marks the 44th anniversary of the United States Supreme Court's landmark decision in *Roe v. Wade*, which affirmed that every woman has a fundamental right to control her own reproductive decisions and to decide whether to end or to continue pregnancy, and is an occasion deserving of celebration; and

Whereas, *Roe v. Wade* has been the cornerstone of women's ability to control their reproductive lives, allowing every woman in the United States the right to decide when, if, and with whom to have children, and how many children to have; and

Whereas, Women's ability to control their reproductive lives has helped and facilitated their participation in the economic and social life of our nation; and

Whereas, *Roe v. Wade* has drastically reduced the maternal mortality rate for women terminating their pregnancies in the United States. In the years prior to the decision, illegal abortion accounted for approximately 17 percent of all reported deaths attributable to pregnancy and childbirth, and many women were severely injured as a result of "back alley" abortion procedures; and

Whereas, Interference with a woman's right to choose causes women to be forced into illegal and dangerous abortions, as they often were in the United States before the *Roe v. Wade* decision. Many women are forced to make these decisions today in countries where abortion is illegal and where the unsafe methods of illegal abortion lead to 13 percent of global maternal deaths annually, or eight maternal deaths every hour. Many survivors of an illegal abortion suffer serious and often permanent injuries; and

Whereas, *Roe v. Wade* continues to protect the health and freedom of women throughout the United States; and

Whereas, *Roe v. Wade* is in serious jeopardy due to President-elect Donald J. Trump's stated intention to nominate United States Supreme Court justices hostile to women's right to choose; and

Whereas, The State of California stands in strong support of every woman's fundamental right, as confirmed in *Roe v. Wade*, to make her own decisions regarding her pregnancy; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, That the Senate urges the President of the United States and the United States Congress to express their support for a woman's fundamental right to control her own reproductive decisions, as well as their support for access to comprehensive reproductive health care, including the services provided by Planned Parenthood; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, and to the author for appropriate distribution.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. MCCAIN for the Committee on Armed Services.

*Robert Behler, of Pennsylvania, to be Director of Operational Test and Evaluation, Department of Defense.

*Thomas B. Modly, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary of the Navy.

*James F. Geurts, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Navy.

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

*Jonathan H. Pittman, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

*James Thomas Abbott, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Federal Labor Relations Authority for a term of five years expiring July 1, 2020.

*Colleen Kiko, of North Dakota, to be a Member of the Federal Labor Relations Authority for a term of five years expiring July 29, 2022.

*Ernest W. Dubester, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Federal Labor Relations Authority for a term of five years expiring July 1, 2019.

By Mr. GRASSLEY for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Gregory G. Katsas, of Virginia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit.

Brett Joseph Talley, of Alabama, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Alabama.

Emily Coody Marks, of Alabama, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Alabama.

Jeffrey Uhlman Beaverstock, of Alabama, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Alabama.

Holly Lou Teeter, of Kansas, to be United States District Judge for the District of Kansas.

Bobby L. Christine, of Georgia, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia for the term of four years.

David J. Freed, of Pennsylvania, to be United States Attorney for the Middle District of Pennsylvania for the term of four years.

*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.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

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 Mr. HELLER (for himself and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 2107. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Under Secretary of Health to report major adverse personnel actions involving certain health care employees to the National Practitioner Data Bank and to applicable State licensing boards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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

S. 2108. A bill to amend the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to modify temporarily certain rates of duty; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. TESTER, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. WARREN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. REED, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. STABENOW, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. COONS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. KING, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mrs. MCCASKILL, and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. 2109. A bill to count revenues from military and veteran education programs toward the limit on Federal revenues that certain proprietary institutions of higher education are allowed to receive for purposes of section 487 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. MCCASKILL:

S. 2110. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the non-applicability of non-Department of Veterans Affairs covenants not to compete to the appointment of certain Veterans Health Administration personnel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. DAINES:

S. 2111. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify the treatment of applications for projects to construct new State homes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. ERNST (for herself and Mrs. MCCASKILL):

S. 2112. A bill to amend the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 to improve the treatment at non-Department of Veterans Affairs facilities of veterans who are victims of military sexual assault, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 2113. A bill to amend title 41, United States Code, to improve the manner in which Federal contracts for design and construction services are awarded, to prohibit the use of reverse auctions for design and construction services procurements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. ISAKSON (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. DAINES, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. INHOFE, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. ERNST, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. ROUNDS):

S. 2114. A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional), commonly known as "Merrill's Marauders", in recognition of their bravery and outstanding service in the jungles of Burma during World War II; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. REED, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 2115. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to disallow any deduction for punitive damages, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 2116. A bill to amend the Federal Deposit Insurance Act to increase the asset threshold with respect to the on-site examination of certain insured depository institutions; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.