

VOTE EXPLANATION

- Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, due to my mother's hospitalization and illness, I must remain in Florida and missed today's vote.●

TRIBUTE TO STAFF

Mr. STRANGE. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the remarkable staff that has worked this year in my Senate offices. Individually, they bring expertise and professionalism to their tireless efforts on behalf of our State. Together, they have united in honorable service to the people of Alabama. It is with pride and admiration that I recognize Virginia Amason, Will Batson, Morgan Blankenship, Brent Blevins, Melissa Clarke, Paula Cox, David Daniels, Valerie Day, Avis DuBose, Jon Foltz, Jacob Gattman, Jordan Howard, Taylor Jetmundsen, John Little, Sandy Luff, Shanderia McMillian, Cecelia Meeks, Nick Moore, Maria Olson, Jake Proctor, Duncan Rankin, June Reeves-Weir, Cody Sanders, Jeff Sommer, Drew Tatum, Shana Teehan, Susan Thompson, Kevin Turner, Brookley Valencia, Dylan Vorbach, and Zandra Wilson.

As they continue their careers of public service, this staff bears the esteem of a grateful State and my utmost gratitude for a job well done.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO JACQUELINE S. GILLAN

- Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, today I wish to celebrate the career and accomplishments of an exceptional public safety advocate and a dear friend, Jacqueline S. Gillan. Jackie is a legend in the public health and public safety community. As both a public servant and as the president of Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety, she has championed the three cornerstones of traffic safety: safer drivers, safer vehicles, and safer roads. Her career in public service began in the government affairs office of the U.S. Department of Transportation, in the Carter administration. She went on to hold senior policy positions in the U.S. Senate and with three State transportation agencies, New Jersey, California, and the great state of Ohio, which is when I first met Jackie.

After leaving public service, she continued to fight for safer roads for all Americans. Jackie helped to launch Advocates nearly three decades ago and has been at the helm of Advocates since 1990. She has led with extraordinary vision, dogged determination, and keen political judgment.

Jackie helped pass numerous Federal and State laws advancing motor vehicle and motor carrier safety standards. She was instrumental in achieving major advances, including requirements for airbags, electronic stability

control, and back-up cameras. Her advocacy efforts had a significant impact on a dozen major transportation bills, ranging from the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act in 1991 to the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act in 2015.

A decade ago, after a tragic accident killed five members of Ohio's Bluffton University baseball team, I worked together with Jackie, Congressman JOHN LEWIS, Senator Kay Bailey-Hutchison, and many brave families—including John and Joy Betts—whose loved ones were killed in motorcoach crashes to enact the Nation's first comprehensive motorcoach safety law, the Motorcoach Enhanced Safety Act. It took longer than it should have to pass this commonsense bill into law, but Jackie was there every step of the way, helping us fight for these lifesaving safety improvements.

A native Californian, Jackie's introduction to public service began at home. Her father, Henry Gillan, served on the city council and was elected mayor of El Cerrito. Now, after decades fighting for the safety of ordinary Americans, Jackie has earned a long and happy retirement spent with her husband, Ernie Beyard; her children, Kristin Beyard and Alex Beyard; and Barkley, an exuberant English springer spaniel who is frequently sighted on walks around Capitol Hill.

There is no question countless lives have been saved and injuries averted and that many families will enjoy the upcoming holidays safely together because of Jackie's work. We are so grateful.●

REMEMBERING RAY TREVINO

- Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to memorialize Raymond Trevino, a man who gave so much to the people of Reno and who recently passed away at the age of 74.

Known for his kind spirit and generous heart, Mr. Trevino was widely known for helping those in need receive a warm, healthy meal. Mr. Trevino, who first started as a volunteer a quarter of a century ago, served as the dining room director at Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada's St. Vincent Dining Room.

It should go without saying that Mr. Trevino, Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada's longest serving employee, was a compassionate man who made a positive impact in the community. As the Reno Gazette-Journal recently noted, it is estimated that he served over 1 million meals to low-income and homeless people during his 25 years of service.

Before setting up the dining room, Mr. Trevino, an Army veteran, was a casino food and beverage executive and the owner of five restaurants.

Mr. Trevino was honored with the Mother Theresa Humanitarian Award in 2013 for his work helping those in need. He was also presented with the Dolan Service Award by Dolan Auto

Group for assisting struggling individuals and families in the community.

As a testament to the legacy he leaves behind, at this year's annual Thanksgiving, over 200 volunteers came out to participate in the lunch and help feed more than 1,000 people. During the lunch, attendees paid tribute to Mr. Trevino's work and shared memories of his years of service.

As Nevada's senior U.S. Senator, I know that Mr. Trevino will be sorely missed. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family and loved ones during this difficult time.●

REMEMBERING JUDGE FRED L. FOX II

- Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the Honorable Fred L. Fox, a proud Vietnam veteran and West Virginian, noble public servant, and very dear friend of mine, who left a significant imprint on our home State of West Virginia.

Fred was born in Charleston and raised in Sutton in lovely Braxton County. His grandfather, Fred Fox, Sr., or "grandfox," was a lawyer, a State senator, and a West Virginia Supreme Court justice. His father, John Fox, was a prosecuting attorney in Braxton County for more than a decade. Despite this family tradition, Fred grew up determined that he did not want to be a lawyer.

He loved our country, and after graduating from the Greenbrier Military Academy in 1956 and Davis and Elkins College in 1960, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps and served from 1960 to 1963. Once he returned home with his new perspective, he finally did follow in his family's footsteps and enrolled at West Virginia University's College of Law, ranking second in his class, and remained in the Marine Corps Reserves.

Fred also graduated from the Naval Justice School in Newport, RI. His success in these endeavors prepared him for his first law experience at Furbee, Amos, Webb and Critchfield, a local firm in Fairmont. Fred began working as a personal attorney for my father and our lifelong friendship began.

However, soon after joining the firm at the height of the Vietnam war, Fred again answered the call of duty. He wanted to be a combat marine because, in his words, "It was the right thing to do." After nearly a year as an infantry company commander, Fred was wounded. He was awarded a Purple Heart, two Bronze Stars with combat "V," and two Vietnamese Crosses of Gallantry with Gold Star. Due to his injuries, Fred retired as a captain in 1969. I can recall Fred saying, "You don't win Bronze Stars, they're awarded to you." His experience during Vietnam set the groundwork for how he viewed the rest of his endeavors. In his opinion, he certainly faced pressure as a judge, but he had already faced so much as a marine that nothing ever quite compared.

Even now, I remember Fred so clearly with his globe and anchor marine

lapel pin and a warm smile on his face, and that is how I'll always remember him. I chose Fred to swear me in at my second inauguration as Governor, and it made the day even more special.

What made Fred's presence so comforting was that he wasn't afraid to admit he didn't know an answer. In fact, when he was elected as Marion County circuit court Judge in 1970, he frequently called upon one of his mentors, Judge Robert Maxwell of Elkins, for help. He followed Judge Maxwell's example and always maintained a good relationship with his colleagues. He had only been out of law school a few years, but because of his compassion, intelligence, and fairness, he was re-elected every 8 years until his retirement in 2010. Young judges and lawyers often called on him for advice thereafter, and he was happy to oblige.

His view of the law is something I will always admire, and I know has inspired countless young judges and lawyers. He was fiercely protective of the interests of the people before him in the courtroom, acknowledging the heavy responsibility of representing the entire justice system. He didn't necessarily agree with every verdict, but he respected every verdict because he trusted the system.

Following his 40-year career as Circuit Court Judge, he served 3 years as a senior-status judge. At the time of his retirement, he was the longest sitting circuit judge in the State. In 1995, he was appointed to serve a 10-month term with the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals. He was instrumental in the creation of the CASA Program, which provides a voice for abused and neglected children who find themselves in the court system, and it has changed countless lives for the better. Among his many recognitions, he was also rightfully nominated as a Marion County Public Servant of the Year.

What is most important is that Fred lived a full life, surrounded by dear friends, colleagues, and family. It is my hope that his loved ones are able to find peace, strength, and support in one another. This is a time to celebrate his life and legacy and to honor his memory in our thoughts and prayers. He touched countless lives, and his loss has left a deep void in our statewide community. He was a dear friend to Gayle and I and our family, and we will miss him dearly.

Again, I extend my most sincere condolences to his loving wife, Debra; his children Charlee Anne, Joseph, Logan, and Zach; his grandchildren Lindsay, Kelsey, Nick, and Benjamin; his sister Janie; and the entire Fox family. I am honored to join the people of West Virginia and beyond in recognizing Fred's memory, as well as the unwavering love he had for his family, friends, the judicial system, our State of West Virginia, and our great Nation. His legacy of service will live on forever.●

TRIBUTE TO PAUL J. TAVARES

• Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to a great friend and Rhode Islander, former general treasurer Paul J. Tavares. Paul and I ran for statewide office together in 1998. Fortunately, both of us won. Paul's campaign motto was "No tricks, no gimmicks, just a Treasurer who will do what is right." Paul had been a great State senator, and Rhode Islanders believed him—and he justified their faith.

Paul chalked up a strong record of accomplishment in the treasurer's office. Among his most notable achievements was the CollegeBoundfund, Rhode Island's 529 college savings program, one of the strongest such programs in the Nation. We worked together on reforming a broken crime victims' fund. When he retired after two terms, Paul had kept his promise as treasurer to leave the office in better shape than he found it.

In 2012, the Providence Housing Authority was in disarray and plagued by scandals. Providence's mayor, Angel Taveras, asked Paul to take over as interim executive director and clean up the mess. Paul promised he would. He quickly turned the agency around and ran it so well that city and housing authority officials convinced him to stay on. Paul recently told his colleagues in city government that it was time for him to go, and he will retire at the end of this year.

In his public life, Paul has been appointed to the East Providence School Committee; elected to the East Providence City Council, the Rhode Island Senate, and the office of the general treasurer; and appointed executive director of the East Providence and Providence housing authorities. In addition, Paul has given himself tirelessly to fraternal and charitable service in Rhode Island and is a loving father and husband. Someone once said there are three kinds of people in this world: those who make things happen, those who watch things happen, and those who wonder what happened. Paul made things happen, and his generosity and selflessness improved the lives of many Rhode Islanders.

As Paul retires from public service—once again—I thank him for being part of my life and for doing so much for our Ocean State. Paul fulfilled his pledge: There were no tricks, no gimmicks; just a public servant who did what was right. More importantly, Paul lives his life the same way: no tricks, no gimmicks, just a man who does what is right. He never took himself too seriously, never let positions of power go to his head, and never forgot where he came from. He is an example to me of doing it right.

Rhode Island is fortunate to have devoted, energetic, and generous citizens like Paul Tavares. Godspeed, my friend.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Cuccia, 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 RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2017, the Secretary of the Senate, on December 8, 2017, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled joint resolution:

H.J. Res. 123. Joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2018, and for other purposes.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2017, the enrolled joint resolution was signed on December 8, 2017, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. STRANGE).

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 4:03 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. 477. An act to amend the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934 to exempt from registration brokers performing services in connection with the transfer of ownership of smaller privately held companies.

H.R. 2658. An act to provide humanitarian assistance for the Venezuelan people, to defend democratic governance and combat widespread public corruption in Venezuela, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4300. An act to authorize the Pacific Historic Parks to establish a commemorative display to honor members of the United States Armed Forces who served in the Pacific Theater of World War II, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 477. An act to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to exempt from registration brokers performing services in connection with the transfer of ownership of smaller privately held companies; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 2658. An act to provide humanitarian assistance for the Venezuelan people, to defend democratic governance and combat