

All of that air traffic demands the best air traffic controllers, about 180 in the Anchorage area alone, working day and night to guide the planes in and guide them out. They are highly trained, skilled, and know what to do in case of an emergency.

When the earth shook in Anchorage, it was an emergency, and our air traffic controllers both at Merrill Field, a general aviation airport, and at the busier Ted Stevens International Airport, acted fast.

Let me first talk about what happened at the Ted Stevens International Airport during the earthquake.

According to a reporter, when the earthquake hit, one of the managers said the tower that they were in swayed 3 or 4 feet and described watching transformers blow out around town from the tower.

A FedEx plane was coming in, and they got on their radios. "FedEx, go around, FedEx, go around!" they told the plane, averting a potential accident.

Once they realized how severe the earthquake was, the controllers evacuated, carrying their radios.

So they chose another option: The three guided the airplanes in from the cab of a pickup truck.

They had what they needed—radios, phones, and a window—and they had the support of dozens of FAA employees at other locations.

This is what is amazing; Because of their quick thinking, the airport's three runways were closed for less than 10 minutes after a 7-magnitude earthquake struck.

On the other side of town, at Merrill Field control tower, a similar story was unfolding.

Again, the controllers and all on the team evacuated, and again, the controllers took their private vehicles out to the ramp and powered up FAA portable radios.

The initial lull in general aviation and flight school traffic was quickly replaced by public safety helicopter and Medevac flights, Civil Air Patrol aircraft on disaster relief and reconnaissance missions, and airborne observers checking critical pipeline and roadway infrastructure.

I am so proud of how everyone in Southcentral reacted to the earthquake. Kids immediately dove under desks. Our first responders jumped into action. Neighbors helped neighbors. And they are still doing so.

Not one person died as a result of the earthquake.

I am so proud of our air traffic controllers who, under immense pressure, improvised and did what needed to be done to keep everyone safe and make sure that flights weren't disrupted.

Thank you for all you did during that very frightening time, and thank you for all you do for all of us every day. Congratulations for being our Alaskans of the Week.●

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 7:37 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 bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 7327. An act to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish a security vulnerability disclosure policy, to establish a bug bounty program for the Department of Homeland Security, to amend title 41, United States Code, to provide for Federal acquisition supply chain security, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 8:50 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:

S. 1312. An act to prioritize the fight against human trafficking in the United States.

S. 1311. An act to provide assistance in abolishing human trafficking in the United States.

H.R. 1235. An act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition of the 60th Anniversary of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

H.R. 4431. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for interest payments by agencies in the case of administrative error in processing certain annuity deposits for prior military service or certain volunteer service, and for other purposes.

S. 1050. An act to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the Chinese-American Veterans of World War II, in recognition of their dedicated service during World War II.

S. 2101. An act to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the crew of the USS Indianapolis, in recognition of their perseverance, bravery, and service to the United States.

S. 3749. An act to amend the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 to reform the procedures provided under such Act for the initiation, review, and resolution of claims alleging that employing offices of the legislative branch have violated the rights and protections provided to their employees under such Act, including protections against sexual harassment, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7213. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6160. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to clarify the sources of the authority to issue regulations regarding cer-

tifications and other criteria applicable to legislative branch employees under Wounded Warriors Federal Leave Act.

H.R. 1318. An act to support States in their work to save and sustain the health of mothers during pregnancy, childbirth, and in the postpartum period, to eliminate disparities in maternal health outcomes for pregnancy-related and pregnancy-associated deaths, to identify solutions to improve health care quality and health outcomes for mothers, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6964. An act to reauthorize and improve the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, and for other purposes.

S. 2511. An act to require the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere to carry out a program on coordinating the assessment and acquisition by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of unmanned maritime systems, to make available to the public data collected by the Administration using such systems, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4032. An act to confirm undocumented Federal rights-of-way or easements on the Gila River Indian Reservation, clarify the northern boundary of the Gila River Indian Community's Reservation, to take certain land located in Maricopa County and Pinal County, Arizona, into trust for the benefit of the Gila River Indian Community, and for other purposes.

S. 3170. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to make certain changes to the reporting requirement of certain service providers regarding child sexual exploitation visual depictions, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2. An act to provide for the reform and continuation of agricultural and other programs of the Department of Agriculture through fiscal year 2023, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bills (H.R. 1318, H.R. 1235, H.R. 2, S. 1312, S. 1050, S. 2511, S. 3170, H.R. 7213) were subsequently signed by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN).

The enrolled bills (S. 3749, S. 1311, H.R. 4431, S. 2101, H.R. 6964, H.R. 4032, H.R. 6160) were subsequently signed by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. SCOTT).

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-7539. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Pears Grown in Oregon and Washington; Decreased Assessment Rate for Processed Pears" (AMS-SC-18-0049) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 19, 2018; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7540. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the continuation of the national emergency with respect to serious human rights abuse and corruption that was originally declared in Executive Order 13818 of December 20, 2017; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7541. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Belarus that was declared in Executive Order

13405 of June 16, 2006; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7542. A communication from the Administrator and Chief Executive Officer, Bonneville Power Administration, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's Annual Report for fiscal year 2018; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7543. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Change in Basis for Determining Reserves Under Section 807" (Rev. Proc. 2019-10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 17, 2018; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7544. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulations and Reports Clearance, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Social Security Administration Violence Evaluation and Reporting System" (RIN0960-AI08) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 19, 2018; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7545. A communication from the Secretary, Judicial Conference of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report on the Continuing Need for Authorized Bankruptcy Judgeships"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-7546. A communication from the Secretary of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Semiannual Report of the Office of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2018 through September 30, 2018; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7547. A communication from the Secretary of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department of Labor's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2018; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7548. A communication from the Director of the Peace Corps, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Corps' Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2018; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7549. A communication from the Acting Chairman of the National Endowment of the Arts, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Endowment's Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2018; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7550. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report consistent with the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002 (P.L. 107-243) and the Authorization for the Use of Force Against Iraq Resolution of 1991 (P.L. 102-1) for the July 11, 2018 to September 9, 2018 reporting period; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7551. A communication from the Staff Director, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2018; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7552. A communication from the Acting Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7553. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of the Upper Hudson Viticultural

Area" (RIN1513-AC38) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 19, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7554. A communication from the Secretary of the Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Interpretive Rule, Shipping Act of 1984" (RIN3072-AC71) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 19, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. ALEXANDER, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

Report to accompany S. 3217, An original bill to reauthorize the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (Rept. No. 115-434).

By Mr. RISCH, from the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship:

Report to accompany S. 791, a bill to amend the Small Business Act to expand intellectual property education and training for small businesses, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 115-435).

Report to accompany S. 1538, a bill to amend the Small Business Act to establish awareness of, and technical assistance for, the creation of employee stock ownership plans, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 115-436).

Report to accompany S. 3552, a bill to amend the Small Business Act to adjust the real estate appraisal thresholds under the 7(a) program of the Small Business Administration to bring those thresholds into line with the thresholds used by the Federal banking regulators, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 115-437).

Report to accompany S. 3553, a bill to amend the Small Business Act to adjust the real estate appraisal thresholds under the section 504 program of the Small Business Administration to bring those thresholds into line with the thresholds used by the Federal banking regulators, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 115-438).

By Ms. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:

Report to accompany S. 1548, a bill to designate certain land administered by the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service in the State of Oregon as wilderness and national recreation areas and to make additional wild and scenic river designations in the State of Oregon, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 115-439).

Report to accompany S. 2809, a bill to establish the San Rafael Swell Western Heritage and Historic Mining National Conservation Area in the State of Utah, to designate wilderness areas in the State, to provide for certain land conveyances, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 115-440).

Report to accompany S. 2290, a bill to improve wildfire management operations and the safety of firefighters and communities with the best available technology (Rept. No. 115-441).

By Mr. THUNE, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, without amendment:

S. 2764. A bill to amend and enhance the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act to improve the conservation of sharks, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 115-442).

By Mr. THUNE, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1426. A bill to amend the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act to expand

the purposes of the corporation, to designate the United States Center for Safe Sport, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 115-443).

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 278. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to provide for innovative research and development, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 115-444).

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with amendments:

S. 2948. A bill to improve efforts to identify and reduce Governmentwide improper payments, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 115-445).

S. 3041. A bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to provide for disaster recovery reforms, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 115-446).

H.R. 50. A bill to provide for additional safeguards with respect to imposing Federal mandates, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 115-447).

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. WHITEHOUSE (for himself and Mr. INHOFE):

S. 3778. A bill to allow State manufacturing extension partnerships to award grants to small and medium sized manufacturers for the purpose of training new workers to replace departing experienced workers; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 3779. A bill to establish a voluntary program that strengthens the economy, public health, and environment of the United States by reducing emissions from wood heaters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. MERKLEY:

S. 3780. A bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to limit experimentation on cats; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 3781. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform retirement provisions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DAINES:

S. 3782. A bill to restore the application of the Federal antitrust laws to the business of health insurance to protect competition and consumers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself and Mr. BROWN):

S. 3783. A bill to direct the Secretary of Education to establish and carry out a grant program to make grants to eligible institutions to plan and implement programs that provide comprehensive support services and resources designed to increase transfer and graduation rates at community colleges, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 3784. A bill to address the needs of workers in industries likely to be impacted by rapidly evolving technologies; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.