

Dr. Mosher will soon retire as the director of the Information Technology Laboratory, ITL, of the Corps Engineer Research and Development Center, ERDC, headquartered in Vicksburg, MS. His astonishing list of accomplishments range from leading research and development for the Corps, the Army, the Department of Defense, and multiple Federal agencies, to leading the transformation of DOD's research and acquisition communities through the strategic application of high-performance computing, high-speed networks, computational expertise, system engineering, large-scale data analytics, and technology transfer. He instilled a culture of innovation, adaptability, and shared knowledge. Dr. Mosher created a visionary atmosphere where team members are empowered to expand the breadth and depth of data analytics capabilities and explore the future of information management and information technology.

During his more than 38-year service to the Nation, Dr. Reed L. Mosher exuded extraordinary leadership with unparalleled vision, compassion, competence, and determination, culminating with his tenure as the director of the ITL, the premier defense laboratory for information technology. His initiative and selfless service in the successful execution of a broad range of decisive research, development, studies, and operational programs in support of military engineering and Army civil works have resulted in lasting contributions to the Corps of Engineers, the Department of the Army, the Department of Defense, and the Nation.

I am pleased to commend Dr. Mosher for his many years of service and to wish him well in the years ahead.●

REMEMBERING SHEILA ANN OLSEN

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, my colleague Senator JIM RISCH joins me today in honoring the extraordinary life of Sheila Ann Olsen, of Idaho Falls, ID, a dear friend and leader.

Sheila cared deeply for others as was clear from her community involvement. She devoted countless hours to assisting fellow Idahoans and bettering our communities. Some of the organizations and efforts she led and served in include the Idaho Commission on Human Rights, the Development Workshop Foundation, the Mayor's Committee on Race Relations, the Mayor's Cultural Awareness and Human Relations Committee, the Idaho Falls ADA Accessibility Commission, the "Unity in the Community" Prayer-a-Thon, the Governor's Workforce Development Council, Brigham Young University Alumni Board member, Idaho Department of Labor Employment Security Advisory Council, and the Electoral College. She was a dedicated member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and a leader in the local and State Republican Party. Sheila is

broadly admired for her giving spirit, and many credit Sheila with her help in advancing them on their career paths.

While she was deeply principled and committed to her religious faith, she worked extensively with and greatly valued working with others of differing faiths and backgrounds. She sought common ground and held high regard for bridging faiths, races, and backgrounds. We echo the descriptions of Sheila esteemed by her family and many friends: joyful, positive, engaged, compassionate, kind, fair, good, patriotic, and well-respected. Her attributes and hard work have received many recognitions including "National MS Mother of the Year" by President George H.W. Bush, Brigham Young University's "Service to Family Award," "Exemplary Citizen" by the Rotary Club, and many more.

Sheila Olsen will be remembered as someone who set an enduring example of service to others. She was a mother of 10 children and a wife to the late Dennis Olsen. She was a grandmother to 39 grandchildren and great-grandmother to 23 great-grandchildren. She overcame the complications of multiple sclerosis to give extensively. Her legacy of devotion to her family, her religion, and serving will carry on in the many lives positively influenced by this great leader. We express our deep condolences to her family and friends and thank Sheila for her friendship and lasting service.●

RECOGNIZING BLACKFEET COMMUNITY COLLEGE

● Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week I have the honor of recognizing Blackfeet Community College, BCC. By 2020, BCC hopes to produce 40 certified teachers for Montana, and these teachers will be able to integrate Blackfeet culture into their classrooms.

BCC is operated exclusively for non-profit purposes, ensuring that postsecondary and higher educational services are provided to the community. BCC students, staff and board of trustees have adopted core values that recognize the way our interactions with others effect our value and thought systems. The first core value is the Blackfeet Way of Knowing, which means Blackfeet culture/spirituality in philosophy, thought, and action.

BCC is raising up leaders of tomorrow who are rooted in the Blackfeet culture and heritage, a heritage that is known for traditional singing, drumming, and dancing, as well as stick games and rodeos.

Thank you, BCC, for your continued dedication to creating the thoughtful and values-driven Montana teachers and leaders of tomorrow.●

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT BADAL

● Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, I wish to congratulate President Robert Badal of the University of Jamestown,

formerly known as Jamestown College, in Jamestown, ND, on his outstanding tenure. Since 2002, Dr. Badal's leadership has brought strengthened academic programs, increased enrollment, greater financial strength, and significant expansion and renovation of the campus. These efforts and new offerings of graduate programs led to the change of status from college to university under Dr. Badal, who will be retiring on February 28, 2018.

In addition to jumpstarting graduate programs, Dr. Badal has also more than doubled the endowment of the university and expanded academic offerings and extracurricular offering, and it currently celebrates a multi-year high enrollment of 1,136 students. Additionally, the university has reached to other parts of North Dakota by establishing a campus in Fargo with three graduate programs. To quote Dr. Badal, he has taken "a small, but historic institution to a higher level."

The University of Jamestown was truly fortunate to have a president whose unwavering passion and dedication to student success led to extraordinary growth and advancement. While his departure marks a new era for the university, he has left it in a very strong position for the future and for his successor. I thank Dr. Badal for his time and leadership at the University of Jamestown and wish him a very enjoyable retirement.●

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BENEVOLENT AND PROTECTIVE ORDER OF THE ELKS

● Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, February 16, 2018, marks the 150th anniversary of the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks. The Elks is an American fraternal society dedicated to serving and caring for our citizens, communities, and country. The order continues to grow and thrive with a membership of nearly 1 million members and 2,000 lodges nationwide.

The Elks is dedicated to the ideals of charity, justice, and patriotism and has invested millions of hours annually in building stronger communities, assisting homeless veterans, and supporting youth substance abuse prevention initiatives.

Patriotism is central to the order's principles and is demonstrated in some of the organization's charitable endeavors. In 1907, the Elks first adopted June 14 as Flag Day out of reverence for the American flag and the sacrifices made in honor of it. Almost 40 years later, Congress officially recognized June 14 as the national holiday honoring the American flag. Elks members donated over 1 million for the renovation of the Statue of Liberty, which helped to restore this important symbol of freedom. Elks members also contributed nearly 2 million for the building of the National World War II Memorial in honor of the more than 16,000,000 people who served in the Second World War.

The Order of the Elks has demonstrated a strong commitment to serving our county's veterans. The Elks are deeply engaged in the Veterans Affairs medical facilities by providing support and friendship to veterans at VA facilities. Furthermore, the Elks answered the call of the Department of Veterans Affairs to better address veteran homelessness by founding the Welcome Home Program.

Providing mentorship and instilling good character and moral values in our country's youth is another important facet of the Elk's mission. Our youth are the leaders of tomorrow, and the Elks are committed to helping them succeed by supporting scholarships that allow more children to pursue their dreams. Further, the order educates parents and their children about the dangers of using illegal substances, tobacco products, alcohol, and abusing prescription drugs. These prevention and awareness programs help give young people the tools and information they need to make good decisions when faced with negative social pressures.

I encourage my colleagues in the Senate to join me in recognizing and congratulating the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks on its 150th anniversary. The Order of the Elks has been and will continue to be a shining example of honor and service to neighbor, community, and nation.●

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL RUBIN

● Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, today, I pay tribute to Rhode Island's assistant attorney general Michael Rubin, who will retire this year after serving our State for more than three decades. I had the pleasure of working alongside Mike during my time as attorney general and during my time on the attorney general office staff. I am proud to call him my friend. He is a skilled leader in the Rhode Island legal community. He will be missed.

Mike piled up a strong record of accomplishments during his time as the assistant attorney general of Rhode Island and chief of the Rhode Island Attorney General's environmental unit. He was an advocate for every community in the State and worked every day to promote a safe, clean environment for our kids and preserve public access to our beautiful shores. Just this past year, Save the Bay Rhode Island awarded Mike with its Environmental Achievement Award for his important work as the head of the environmental unit. "Without the efforts of advocates such as Mike, who tirelessly work not only for the good of the environment, but for our ability as a citizenry to access and enjoy our coastline, the quality, and in some cases, quantity, of publicly accessible coastal lands and waters would be significantly depreciated," the organization announced.

I got to see his determination firsthand when I was attorney general. In 2001, Mike had been trial counsel in the State proceedings when I argued a case

to defend our State's environmental preservation regulations before the Supreme Court. More recently, Mike helped file lawsuits in 2016 against dozens of big oil companies over the hazardous messes they were making in Rhode Island wells and reservoirs and pursued \$65 million for the cleanup.

In addition to his good work in the attorney general's office, Mike has contributed a great deal to our community. I know he will remain a committed leader in our State. I wish him health and much happiness in his days to come. Here is to less time writing briefs and more time enjoying Rhode Island's natural beauty, whether that be on your bike, in your kayak, or on your ice-skates.

On behalf of all Rhode Islanders, thank you for your work, Mike. You have made our State proud. Godspeed.●

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

At 3:24 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. 3299. An act to amend the Revised Statutes, the Home Owners' Loan Act, the Federal Credit Union Act, and the Federal Deposit Insurance Act to require the rate of interest on certain loans remain unchanged after transfer of the loan, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3542. An act to impose sanctions against Hamas for violating universally applicable international laws of armed conflict by intentionally using civilians and civilian property to shield military objectives from lawful attack, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3978. An act to amend the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974 to modify requirements related to mortgage disclosures, and for other purposes.

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. 103. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 3299. An act to amend the Revised Statutes, the Home Owners' Loan Act, the Federal Credit Union Act, and the Federal Deposit Insurance Act to require the rate of interest on certain loans remain unchanged after transfer of the loan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 3542. An act to impose sanctions against Hamas for violating universally applicable international laws of armed conflict by intentionally using civilians and civilian property to shield military objectives from lawful attack, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 3978. An act to amend the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974 to modify requirements related to mortgage disclosures, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban 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-4336. A communication from the Board Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration's proposed fiscal year 2019 Budget and Performance Plan; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4337. A communication from the Acting Director, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Bureau's strategic plan for fiscal years 2018-2022; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4338. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Emergency Preparedness and Operations Reliability Standards" (Docket No. RM11-12-000; Order No. 840) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 13, 2018; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-4339. 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 "Modified Safe Harbor for Deteriorating Concrete Foundations Caused by the Mineral Pyrrhotite" (Rev. Proc. 2018-14) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 13, 2018; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4340. 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 "Exemption Application Rules for Corporate Restructurings" (Rev. Proc. 2018-15) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 13, 2018; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4341. 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 "Qualified Opportunity Zones Designation Procedures" (Rev. Proc. 2018-16) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 13, 2018; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4342. A communication from the Executive Analyst (Political), Department of