

how it came about, which was officially denied by the Soviet regime.

Vladimir Putin's regime continues to deny that the Baltic countries were illegally occupied and to insist that they ceased to be independent states when they were annexed in 1940.

In 2015, a member of the ruling party in Russia even initiated an inquiry with the Russian Prosecutor General as to the legality of the decision allowing the independence of the Baltic states from the Soviet Union in 1991. That decision was declared illegal. Since the entire 50-year occupation of the Baltic countries was illegal, the legality of a decision by a defunct evil empire is hardly relevant. What is relevant is that the current regime in Russia is continuing the Soviet legacy of rewriting history to fit its agenda. That is a form of political warfare.

Many Americans are now waking up to the fact that the Putin regime is bent on undermining Western democracies.

Well, the Baltic countries have been warning about that for years while leaders of our government were cozying up to Putin and playing around with reset buttons.

Estonia was the subject of a massive propaganda campaign combined with a cyber attack back in 2007 when it moved a Soviet war memorial to a less conspicuous location.

Estonia's experience of weathering a cyber attack and its strong IT sector have made it a cybersecurity expert, and it now hosts the NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence.

What Russia is doing now is out of the same KGB playbook it used throughout the Cold War. For instance, the Soviets planted articles in newspapers in the 1980s claiming that the United States created AIDS. They then got other papers to pick it up and echoed the story via its own news agencies. This is exactly what Russia is still doing, only with more modern technology.

We have a lot to learn from all three Baltic countries, where the governments, the media, and the citizens are more sophisticated about identifying and exposing propaganda campaigns. The best response to propaganda is education and exposure—in other words, truth.

The citizens of the three Baltic countries fought back against Soviet distortion of history with historical truth and were able to reclaim their independence.

So today I want to recognize historical truth on the Senate floor and congratulate Lithuania and Estonia on their recent statehood centennials. I look forward to celebrating the upcoming centennial of Latvia in November.

These bastions of Western civilization and Western values in a tough neighborhood are valuable partners in advancing our shared goals of securing democracy and the blessings of liberty for our people.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO EMORY SCHWALL

• Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, it is an honor and a privilege today to pay tribute to a great Georgian who has dedicated a lifetime of service to our State ahead of his 90th birthday on April 11, 2018.

Mr. Emory Schwall is an outstanding Georgia attorney who has practiced law in our State for 68 years. In 1950, at the age of 21, he was admitted to the Georgia Bar after attending the Emory School of Law and graduating from the Woodrow Wilson Law School in Atlanta.

Emory Schwall has served as special assistant attorney general for the State of Georgia representing the insurance commissioner. He is a certified estate planner and mediator, a member of Atlanta Estate Planning Council, the Atlanta Bar Association, the Georgia Bar Association, and the American Bar Association. He also is a member of the Emory Law School Council.

As impressive as Emory Schwall's professional legal career has been, his impact on one of Georgia's finest not-for-profit hospitals is probably one of the areas of work of which he is most proud. The Shepherd Center in Atlanta specializes in medical treatment, research, and rehabilitation for people with spinal cord injury, brain injury, multiple sclerosis, spine and chronic pain, and other neuromuscular conditions. Founded in 1975, the Shepherd Center is ranked by U.S. News & World Report as among the top 10 rehabilitation hospitals in the Nation, and it has grown from a six-bed rehabilitation unit to a world-renowned, 152-bed hospital that treats more than 8,500 patients each year.

Emory Schwall has been active with the Shepherd Center since its inception, helping it obtain grants and bequests, and he has led capital campaigns and other initiatives that have helped its growth. He served on the original board of directors for the Shepherd Center Foundation. He has also served as vice president and as a director of Shepherd Center, Inc., from 1987 until 2017.

Emory Schwall has also served his church Trinity Presbyterian Church since 1956, not only as a parishioner, but also as a deacon, an elder, and as chair of its finance committee.

An appreciation for the preservation of history led him, as president of the Atlanta Medical Heritage, to donate the Academy of Medicine building, a designated historical landmark in Atlanta, to the Georgia Tech Foundation to ensure funds for the restoration and preservation of the building.

Further, Atlanta's Piedmont Hospital has benefitted from Emory Schwall's generosity and service, including serving as an active member of the Friends of Piedmont Hospital charitable arm.

Emory Schwall also is active with national charitable and civic organiza-

tions such as the American Heart Association and the Arthritis Foundation.

His dedication to service earned him the "Greater Good Award" from the Georgia Planned Giving Council in 2009. This annual award is presented to an individual whose career is currently focused on advising individuals, attorneys, financial planners, insurance counselors, trust officers, accountants, and other financial advisers for obtaining charitable contributions, and a "Greater Good Award" recipient must have served to increase the quantity and quality of planned gifts to charities in Georgia.

Emory Schwall is truly a great Georgian, and I am fortunate to call him my friend. He, along with his wife, the late Peggy McCready Schwall, shared a love of service to others. Their three sons and four grandsons are proud to have such wonderful examples to follow, and as we celebrate his 90th birthday, I hope Emory enjoys many more years in our State and with his family. •

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF BIDDEFORD SAVINGS BANK

• Mr. KING. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 150th anniversary of Biddeford Saving Bank, a financial leader supporting the success and growth of the communities it serves with six locations spanning Biddeford, Waterboro, Scarborough, and Kennebunk, ME. The bank has been recognized for the support of its employees and exceptional customer service, emphasizing the importance of local involvement through volunteerism and support of charities.

Founded in 1867, Biddeford Savings Bank has promoted teamwork, personal growth, and good performance amongst its employees for 150 years. In addition to supporting their employees, Biddeford Savings Bank values its customers as if they are owners. Biddeford Savings Bank assists first-time homebuyers and works with small businesses to ensure growth and success for local owners. The bank also improves its business practices by developing new banking services for customers.

Biddeford Savings Bank is not only committed to its customers, but also to its neighbors including schools, businesses, and organizations that share their desire to improve the community around them. Over the years, the bank has hosted holiday food and gift drives, as well as musical events to raise money for organizations such as the Community Bicycle Center in Biddeford, ME, and United Way. In January of 2017, the bank sponsored the Atlantic Plunge, a fundraiser hosted by Caring Unlimited, in which participants jumped into the ocean to raise awareness for and support the end of domestic violence in York County. Through local events and sponsorships, Biddeford Savings Bank promotes community engagement for individuals in all financial stages of life. For local

students, the bank sponsors two programs focused on financial education. These programs allow for second-graders to learn the basics of money and banking and for high school students to explore money management and gain tools for future financial success. Employees of the bank have also spent time volunteering for local organizations such as the Scarborough Land Trust. In celebration of 150 years in business, Biddeford Savings Bank gave each of its employees \$150 to donate to any nonprofit of their choice, including Biddeford Food Pantry and the Maine Cancer Foundation. These volunteer opportunities have allowed for employees to better understand the local economic culture and recognize concerns, which allows for them to better serve their customers.

With 150 years of banking experience, Biddeford Savings Bank offers a variety of banking options for individuals and businesses with varying financial needs. The bank continues to promote the financial stability and prosperity of its customers, supporting the success of Mainers across generations. I join with its customers in congratulating Biddeford Savings Bank for improving its longstanding leadership in the communities it serves throughout Southern Maine.●

250TH ANNIVERSARY OF MADBURY, NEW HAMPSHIRE

● Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, the town of Madbury, NH, is celebrating its 250th anniversary this year. Madbury is a classic New England community, proud of its rich history, its tradition of direct town meeting democracy, and its family-friendly quality of life. Admittedly, I am not an entirely objective observer, as Madbury has been my home for nearly four decades. It is where I raised my family and have so many dear friends, and it is where I first got involved in local politics, serving on the town's zoning board. The roughly 1,800 residents of Madbury look forward to a nearly yearlong celebration of the anniversary, beginning with a special observance at our annual town meeting on March 13.

Of course, the human history of what is now Madbury—located today in Strafford County in southeast New Hampshire—goes back many centuries prior to the arrival of the first English explorers and settlers. In the 17th century, the Native American Chief Moharimet convened counsels in this area, and today our elementary school is named in his honor.

Madbury was originally a part of the settlements of Dover and Durham called Barbadoes, named after the West Indies island of Barbados, where local settlers sent lumber in exchange for sugar and molasses. It was named for the English town of Modbury, the ancestral home of Sir Francis Champenowne, who immigrated to what is now Madbury in the 1640s. Madbury was incorporated as a parish in 1755 and as a town in 1768.

One of our early residents was Major John Demeritt, who in 1774 joined with other New Hampshire patriots in storming the King's Fort William and Mary in New Castle, seizing its armory of weapons and gunpowder. The "Powder Major," as he came to be known, stored a portion of this armory at his farm, which still sits on Cherry Lane. It was later used by revolutionaries at the Battle of Bunker Hill.

Our Madbury town flag—thought to be the first town flag in New England—features an ax, a plow, and a rose. The ax represents forestry, which first attracted settlers to Madbury to supply shipbuilders at Dover, Durham, and Portsmouth. The plow symbolizes our agricultural past. The rose symbolizes the former Elliot rose nursery, which in the mid-20th century boasted the longest greenhouse in the world at 1,400 feet in length.

Madbury is proud of its long and rich history, and we entered the 21st century as a forward-thinking community with a vibrant economy. Though surrounded by industrial areas, Madbury has remained largely rural in character, proud of its small town charm, hospitality, and lifestyle.

I look forward to celebrations of Madbury's 250th anniversary later this year, including a parade and other festivities on Madbury Day in June and a Revolutionary War reenactment in the fall. I salute my fellow residents of Madbury on this landmark anniversary of our beloved town.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:10 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, with an amendment and an amendment to the title, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 188. An act to prohibit the use of Federal funds for the costs of painting portraits of officers and employees of the Federal Government.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1132. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for a 2-year prohibition on employment in a career civil service position for any former political appointee, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2226. An act to amend the Truth in Lending Act to provide a safe harbor from certain requirements related to qualified mortgages for residential mortgage loans held on an originating depository institution's portfolio, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3737. An act to provide for a study on the use of social media in security clearance investigations.

H.R. 4043. An act to amend the Inspector General Act of 1978 to reauthorize the whistleblower protection program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4607. An act to amend the Economic Growth and Regulatory Paperwork Reduction Act of 1996 to ensure that Federal financial regulators perform a comprehensive re-

view of regulations to identify outdated or otherwise unnecessary regulatory requirements imposed on covered persons, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4725. An act to amend the Federal Deposit Insurance Act to require short form call reports for certain depository institutions.

H.R. 4768. An act to require the President to develop a national strategy to combat the financial networks of transnational organized criminals, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4986. An act to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to reauthorize appropriations for the Federal Communications Commission, 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. 1132. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for a 2-year prohibition on employment in a career civil service position for any former political appointee, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 2226. An act to amend the Truth in Lending Act to provide a safe harbor from certain requirements related to qualified mortgages for residential mortgage loans held on an originating depository institution's portfolio, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 3737. An act to provide for a study on the use of social media in security clearance investigations; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 4607. An act to amend the Economic Growth and Regulatory Paperwork Reduction Act of 1996 to ensure that Federal financial regulators perform a comprehensive review of regulations to identify outdated or otherwise unnecessary regulatory requirements imposed on covered persons, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 4725. An act to amend the Federal Deposit Insurance Act to require short form call reports for certain depository institutions; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 4768. An act to require the President to develop a national strategy to combat the financial networks of transnational organized criminals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 4986. An act to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to reauthorize appropriations for the Federal Communications Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 4043. An act to amend the Inspector General Act of 1978 to reauthorize the whistleblower protection program, and for other purposes.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. ISAKSON, from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs: