

represented the Olympic values of friendship, respect, and excellence—which also happen to be some of our cherished Vermont values. I congratulate each and every one of them.

MICHIGAN PTA CENTENNIAL

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, today I wish to pay special tribute to the Michigan Parent Teacher Association, which this year is celebrating 100 years of advocacy on behalf of Michigan's children and families.

A lot has changed since the Michigan PTA was first established in Battle Creek on May 19, 1918. Parents today are as likely to learn school news via Facebook or text messages as they are from notes sent home, and students are as likely to learn their lessons on laptops and tablets as they are on the chalkboard.

However, one thing hasn't changed at all: Michigan PTA members are still working together every day to provide a quality education and nurturing environment for every Michigan child.

They do that in the best way possible, by bringing together families, educators, school boards, nonprofit organizations, businesses, community leaders, and elected officials around a common cause: promoting the welfare of Michigan children in school, at home, and in the community.

It has been said that it takes a village to raise a child, and the PTA is building that village.

They are building that village by offering parents resources on important topics like teen driving, bullying prevention, online safety, and career planning.

They are building that village by presenting the Fran Anderson Michigan PTA Scholarship to high school seniors who have demonstrated leadership and advocacy skills through their involvement in PTA.

They are building that village through Advocacy Day and advocacy training that gives members the tools they need to speak up for policies that benefit students, families, and schools.

They are building that village by ensuring that parents remain strong partners in the education of their children.

For a century, the Michigan PTA has made sure that the voices of our parents are heard and that the needs of our children are not forgotten. I have been honored to join them in this effort and look forward to continuing our work together.

Michigan's future is found in our children. Thanks to the Michigan PTA for 100 years of making that future a bright one.

Thank you.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:20 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 bill, without amendment:

S. 324. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the provision of adult day health care services for veterans.

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

H.R. 1350. An act to modify the boundary of Voyageurs National Park in the State of Minnesota, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1800. An act to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to transfer certain Federal land to facilitate scientific research supporting Federal space and defense programs.

H.R. 3469. An act to designate the bridge located in Blount County, Tennessee, on the Foothills Parkway (commonly known as "Bridge 2") as the "Dean Stone Bridge".

H.R. 4266. An act to clarify the boundary of Acadia National Park, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4465. An act to maintain annual base funding for the Upper Colorado and San Juan fish recovery programs through fiscal year 2023, to require a report on the implementation of those programs, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the Clerk of the House be directed to return to the Senate the bill (H.R. 1207) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 306 River Street in Tilden, Texas, as the "Tilden Veterans Post Office", in compliance with a request of the Senate for the return thereof.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 1800. An act to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to transfer certain Federal land to facilitate scientific research supporting Federal space and defense programs; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

H.R. 4266. An act to clarify the boundary of Acadia National Park, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 4465. An act to maintain annual base funding for the Upper Colorado and San Juan fish recovery programs through fiscal year 2023, to require a report on the implementation of those programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

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. 1350. An act to modify the boundary of Voyageurs National Park in the State of Minnesota, and for other purposes.

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-4562. A communication from the Acting Administrator of the National Organic Program, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Organic Program (NOP); Organic Livestock and Poultry Practices" (RIN0581-AD75) (Docket No. AMS-NOP-15-0012) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 13, 2018; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4563. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting proposed legislation entitled "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4564. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of four (4) officers authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of major general or brigadier general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4565. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of the continuation of the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared in Executive Order 12957 on March 15, 1995; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4566. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Somalia that was declared in Executive Order 13536 on April 12, 2010; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4567. A communication from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Alternatives to References to Credit Ratings With Respect to Permissible Activities for Foreign Branches of Insured State Non-member Banks and Pledge of Assets by Insured Domestic Branches of Foreign Banks" (RIN3064-AE36) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 12, 2018; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4568. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Electric Storage Participation in Markets Operated by Regional Transmission Organizations and Independent System Operators" (RIN1902-AF18) (Docket Nos. RM16-23-000 and AD16-20-000) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 13, 2018; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-4569. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Consolidated Guidance About Materials Licenses: Program-Specific Guidance About 10 CFR Part 36 Irradiator Licenses" (NUREG-1556, Volume 6, Revision 1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 12, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4570. A communication from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Arms Export Control Act (OSS-2018-0217); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4571. A communication from the Management Analyst, Bureau of Consular Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Schedule of Fees for Consular Services, Department of State and Overseas Embassies and Consulates - Passport Services Fee Changes" (RIN1400-AD81) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 7, 2018; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4572. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to Executive Order 13313 of July 31, 2003, a semiannual report detailing telecommunications-related payments made to Cuba pursuant to Department of the Treasury licenses; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4573. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Food Additives Permitted in Feed and Drinking Water of Animals; Silicon Dioxide as a Carrier for Flavors” (21 CFR Part 573) (Docket No. FDA-2017-F-5528) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 12, 2018; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-4574. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Department’s activities under the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act during fiscal year 2017; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4575. A communication from the Acting Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Department’s activities under the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act during fiscal year 2017; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4576. A communication from the Director, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Uniform Resource Locators (URLs) for two reports entitled “2017 Annual Report of the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts” and “Judicial Business of the United States Courts”; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4577. A communication from the Impact Analyst, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Amendments” (RIN2900-AQ22) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 9, 2018; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

EC-4578. A communication from the Impact Analyst, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Reimbursement of qualifying adoption expenses for certain veterans” (RIN2900-AQ01) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 9, 2018; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-181. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislative Assembly of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico requesting the United States Congress to extend the unemployment and the Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) benefits for an additional twenty-six (26) weeks, due to the catastrophic impact of Hurricanes Maria and Irma on Puerto Rico; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 50

STATEMENT OF MOTIVES

Only two weeks after Hurricane Irma hit the Island, on September 20th, 2017, Hurri-

cane Maria struck Puerto Rico. The eye of this Category 4 hurricane made landfall in the municipality of Yabucoa.

Puerto Rico suffered damages estimated in at least ninety billion dollars (\$90,000,000,000), and a never-before-seen devastation. The power grid as well as the telecommunications and drinking water systems were down. One month after landfall, a mere eighteen percent (18%) of the population had power service, fifty-nine percent (59%) had telecommunications service, and seventy-three percent (73%) had drinking water service.

Many businesses have been unable to operate due to the lack of these services. Consequently, a significant number of employees have lost their jobs or their work hours have been reduced considerably.

Through a contribution based on a percentage of payroll expenses, employers participate in a program where job-seeking unemployed persons are able to receive financial assistance and labor advisory from the Government.

Workers who have been wrongfully discharged may receive the following benefits:

Unemployment compensation equivalent to a percentage of the salary earned up to one hundred thirty-three dollars (\$133.00) a week. Such compensation may be extended for an additional twenty-six (26) weeks, if eligible.

Job search assistance through their job center locations.

Furthermore, the Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) is available for employed and self-employed persons who have been determined not otherwise eligible for regular unemployment insurance benefits. This program provides unemployment benefits to individuals who have become unemployed as a direct result of a major disaster. Just as the unemployment benefit, this assistance is available for twenty-six (26) weeks.

Hurricanes Irma and Maria have had a major impact on the economy. Countless Puerto Ricans have lost their jobs, either temporarily or permanently. The lines at the regional offices of the Department of Labor are endless.

Moreover, it has been estimated that more than sixty thousand (60,000) Puerto Ricans have left the Island over the thirty (30) days following Hurricane Maria, forty thousand (40,000) of which have relocated to Florida.

If the U.S. Congress approves the unemployment benefit extension it will greatly contribute to the recovery of the People of Puerto Rico and prevent many others from making the difficult decision of moving from Puerto Rico.

This is not the first time that such a request is made. The U.S. Congress approved a similar extension in 2006 after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita struck Louisiana and Texas, respectively.

For all of the foregoing, this Legislative Assembly of Puerto Rico deems it meritorious to request the Congress of the United States of America to extend the unemployment and the Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) benefits for an additional twenty-six (26) weeks, due to the catastrophic impact of Hurricanes Maria and Irma on Puerto Rico.

Be it resolved by the Legislative Assembly of Puerto Rico:

Section 1.—To request the Congress of the United States of America to extend the unemployment and the Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) benefits for an additional twenty-six (26) weeks, due to the catastrophic impact of Hurricanes Maria and Irma on Puerto Rico.

Section 2.—It is hereby directed that a copy of this Concurrent Resolution, translated into English, be delivered to the lead-

ership of the Congress of the United States of America, including the Resident Commissioner of Puerto Rico in Washington, D.C., the President of the United States of America, and the U.S. Secretary of Labor.

Section 3.—This Concurrent Resolution shall take effect upon its approval.

POM-182. A joint resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado relative to the fiftieth anniversary of the capture of the U.S.S. Pueblo by North Korea; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 18-1004

Whereas, The U.S.S. Pueblo was originally launched as a United States Army cargo ship in 1944 but was transferred to the United States Navy and renamed the U.S.S. Pueblo in 1966; and

Whereas, The U.S.S. Pueblo was named for the city of Pueblo, Colorado, and the county of Pueblo, Colorado, and was the third ship in the naval fleet to bear the name Pueblo; and

Whereas, After leaving Japan in early January 1968 on an intelligence mission, the U.S.S. Pueblo was attacked by the North Korean military on January 23, 1968; and

Whereas, According to United States Naval authorities and the crew of the U.S.S. Pueblo, the ship was in international waters at the time of the attack; and

Whereas, One crew member of the U.S.S. Pueblo was killed during the attack, and eighty crew members and two civilian oceanographers were captured and held for eleven months by the North Korean government; and

Whereas, This year marks the fiftieth anniversary of North Korea’s attack on the U.S.S. Pueblo and her crew; and

Whereas, The U.S.S. Pueblo is still in commission in the United States Navy but continues to be held by the North Korean government and is currently a museum in Pyongyang, North Korea; Now, therefore; and be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-first General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring herein:

(1) That we, the members of the General Assembly, recognize the bravery and sacrifice of the crew of the U.S.S. Pueblo;

(2) That we take pride in the fact that the U.S.S. Pueblo bears the name of a city and a county in Colorado, and, therefore, the citizens of Colorado should be aware of the incident that occurred with the U.S.S. Pueblo fifty years ago;

(3) That we continue the call for Kim Jong Un and the North Korean government to return the U.S.S. Pueblo to the people of the United States; and

(4) That we hereby designate January 23 each year as “U.S.S. Pueblo Day” as a day to remember and honor the brave crew of the U.S.S. Pueblo; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent to President Donald J. Trump, Governor John W. Hickenlooper, President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate Orrin Hatch, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives Paul D. Ryan, and the members of Colorado’s Congressional delegation.

POM-183. A resolution adopted by the Common Council of the City of Syracuse, New York urging the federal government to pass legislation in support of a national revenue-neutral carbon fee and dividend in order to help slow climate change; to the Committee on Finance.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted: