

Congress should not cede its authority over weapons that have the capacity to destroy us all to President Trump.

Thank you.

TRIBUTE TO ERIKA K. LUNDER

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I wish to offer my most sincere appreciation and gratitude to Erika K. Lunder, legislative attorney with the American Law Division of the Congressional Research Service, CRS. Erika will be leaving CRS on June 22, 2018, after 15 years of dedicated and selfless service to CRS and Congress. She was a trusted adviser on tax law to Members on both sides of the aisle, and her guidance and counsel will be deeply missed by me and many of my colleagues.

Throughout her time at CRS, Erika provided substantial legislative support to Members of Congress and congressional staff who often turned to her for analysis, brainstorming, and consultation on various aspects of tax law. Erika covered all aspects of tax law, from individual to corporate to international, and in connection with every subject on which Congress legislates, from health and energy policy, to campaign finance, immigration, and veterans. Her work in these areas included assisting Congress with interpretations of current and proposed law, explaining case law and legal developments, and analyzing legislative proposals at various stages of the process. Erika's work was used by Congress in hearings, legislative development, markups, and preconference negotiations.

Erika was a tireless worker who never said no to a request and was always willing to make herself available, on a moment's notice, 7 days a week, to help inform the policy process. She was able to describe and distill the most complex and opaque tax law concepts in layman's terms in both her writing and her oral consultations to her clients.

During her time at CRS, Erika contributed her tax law expertise in support of major pieces of tax legislation that were enacted into law, as well as issues that are still the subject of congressional debate, such as the taxation of internet sales.

Erika's extensive knowledge of tax law and her keen ability to frame and analyze issues of paramount concern to Congress often made her the primary point of contact for congressional staff. In addition, Erika was an invaluable resource to her colleagues at CRS, working at some time or another with almost everyone in the Service, providing her tax law expertise in combination with their legal and policy expertise in other areas. I thank her for her service to Congress and the Nation and wish her all the best.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO VALERIE P. COOKE

• Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, after 19 years of dedicated service to the court, U.S. Magistrate Judge Valerie P. Cooke will be retiring on July 31, 2018. I wish to recognize Judge Cooke for her excellent service to the Federal judiciary and the State of Nevada while serving as U.S. Magistrate Judge for the District of Nevada since 1999.

As a third generation Nevada attorney, Judge Cooke has worked diligently to advance communities across Nevada, notably working to ensure equal protection under the law for the most vulnerable and forgotten populations. Judge Cooke initiated the CLEAR—Court Led Efforts at Recovery—court program, Nevada's first Federal reentry court, which helps to alleviate the barriers that formerly incarcerated individuals face as they attempt to reintegrate into society. She also worked to ensure inmates received timely resolutions to their civil rights claims by developing the District of Nevada's inmate early mediation program and implementing electronic filing for civil rights litigation.

Judge Cooke has also held leadership positions in a number of prestigious organizations and committees. Judge Cooke served as the 2008–2009 president of the Bruce R. Thompson Chapter of the American Inns of Court and continues to be active as an emeritus master. Judge Cooke was also the president of the Northern Nevada Women Lawyers Association in 1990 and was the 2001 recipient of the Outstanding Woman Lawyer of the Year Award.

Prior to her tenure on the bench, Judge Cooke served on the Nevada Tax Commission and the Nevada Judicial Discipline Commission. She has also devoted significant time to the advancement of alternative dispute resolution, serving on the Ninth Circuit's alternative dispute resolution committee from 2001 until 2013 and chairing the committee from 2009 to 2013. She has also conducted educational programs on the subject across the country and abroad.

In addition to her work in public service, Judge Cooke has consistently given back to her community. She has served as a mentor and as a role model for youth in Nevada through her involvement with Big Brothers Big Sisters, which led to her being named the 2009 School-Based Big Sister of the Year by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northern Nevada. Judge Cooke conducts annual presentations to elementary through high school students on the work of a Federal judge and volunteers her time each year to serve as a high school mock trial judge. Judge Cooke embodies the Nevada values of leadership, service, and hard work. I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Valerie P. Cooke for her many years of service to the District of Ne-

vada, the Federal bench, and communities across Nevada and the Nation.●

175TH ANNIVERSARY OF KENTWOOL

• Mr. SCOTT. Mr. President, today it is my pleasure to honor Kentwool, an Upstate textile manufacturer that is celebrating its 175th anniversary this year. Originally founded in Philadelphia in 1843, Kentwool has since opened a plant, and maintains headquarters, in the South Carolina Upstate.

Kentwool has had a long history of textile manufacturing in America, including supplying the Armed Forces in both World Wars. Kentwool has been a family-owned business for five generations and maintains a strong emphasis on American-made goods.

Kentwool has been an integral business to the South Carolina Upstate since it opened a production facility in Pickens County in 1954. Kentwool currently employs 65 people at its Upstate facility and has its corporate headquarters in downtown Greenville. They have been a business that the people of the Upstate and of South Carolina are truly proud of.

As I share my congratulations with Kentwool, I know this accomplishment is bittersweet. Just last year, CEO Mark Kent passed away suddenly, and I know that, while Kentwool celebrates this milestone, they also commemorate all the hard work and philanthropic endeavors that Mark accomplished during his time with the company. As someone who gave back to the Upstate through his interest in preserving historic structures and philanthropic work, Mark will certainly not be forgotten and is remembered fondly on this 175th anniversary.

Congratulations, Kentwool.●

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 and a withdrawal 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 3:02 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. 2851. An act to amend the Controlled Substances Act to clarify how controlled

substance analogues are to be regulated, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5735. An act to amend the United States Housing Act of 1937 to establish a demonstration program to set aside section 8 housing vouchers for supportive and transitional housing for individuals recovering from opioid use disorders or other substance use disorders, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5788. An act to provide for the processing by U.S. Customs and Border Protection of certain international mail shipments and to require the provision of advance electronic information on international mail shipments of mail, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 1238(b)(3) of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (22 U.S.C. 7002), as amended, and the order of the House of January 3, 2017, the Speaker appoints the following individual on the part of the House of Representatives to the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission for a term expiring on December 31, 2019: Rear Admiral Michael McDevitt, United States Navy, (Ret.) of Arlington, Virginia.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 2851. An act to amend the Controlled Substances Act to clarify how controlled substance analogues are to be regulated, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 5735. An act to amend the United States Housing Act of 1937 to establish a demonstration program to set aside section 8 housing vouchers for supportive and transitional housing for individuals recovering from opioid use disorders or other substance use disorders, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 5788. An act to provide for the processing by U.S. Customs and Border Protection of certain international mail shipments and to require the provision of advance electronic information on international mail shipments of mail, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

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. 2147. An act to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to hire additional Veterans Justice Outreach Specialists to provide treatment court services to justice-involved veterans, 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-5537. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendments to the Swap Data Access Provisions of Part 49 and Certain Other Matters"

(RIN3038-AE44) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 13, 2018; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5538. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Post-9/11 GI Bill" (RIN0790-AJ94) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 13, 2018; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5539. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Contract Audit Agency (DCAA) Freedom of Information Act Program" (RIN0790-AJ61) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 13, 2018; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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-247. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Michigan urging the United States Congress to award the posthumous Medal of Honor to Lieutenant Colonel Albert M. Edwards for his actions during the Civil War; to the Committee on Armed Services.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 19

Whereas, A resident of Detroit at the time of the Civil War, Albert M. Edwards left college in his second year to enlist as a sergeant in the 24th Michigan Infantry Regiment. During his service, he was promoted to captain of Company F where he was instrumental in raising the new regiment, organizing his company in only two days, and

Whereas, Captain Edwards took command of the regiment in the Battle of Gettysburg on July 1, 1863. As other leaders were wounded or killed, Captain Edwards behaved gallantly to rally the men while under fire. The regiment suffered horrible casualties, more than any of the 400 Union regiments that fought in the three-day battle. The 24th Michigan Infantry was instrumental in providing the Army of the Potomac time to establish a solid defensive position that the Confederate Army would not be able to break, and

Whereas, Captain Edwards commanded the regiment multiple times during his service and participated in every battle and march of the regiment. Although never wounded in action, he was captured in battle but returned to his regiment in a prisoner exchange. He was promoted to major and lieutenant-colonel during the war. When the regiment returned to Detroit in June of 1865, Colonel Edwards was in command, and

Whereas, While fighting in the Battle of the Wilderness in May 1864, Major Edwards captured a Confederate flag. The capture was recorded by the regiment historian and confirmed by an assistant adjutant general, and the flag found its way to the archives of the War Department in Washington. Capturing a Confederate battle flag was a common criterion for awarding the medal of honor to a soldier, and

Whereas, Colonel Edwards was given the honorary promotion of "Brevet Colonel," often used in recognition of gallant conduct or other meritorious service. Colonel Edwards also received wide acknowledgement at Civil War reunions, as reported in newspapers, and

Whereas, Colonel Albert M. Edwards has never received official recognition for his acts of patriotism and honor, now therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (The Senate Concurring), That we memorialize the Congress of the United States to award the posthumous Medal of Honor to Lieutenant-Colonel Albert M. Edwards for his actions during the Civil War, and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM-248. A resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey urging the United States Congress to enact S. 1112, the "Maternal Health Accountability Act of 2017" in order to enable states and the federal government to share responsibility in identifying opportunities for improving care, reducing disparities, and implementing system changes relating to maternal health care, and to educate health care providers, pregnant women, their families, and the public about preventing pregnancy-related and pregnancy-associated complications and deaths; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION NO. 113

Whereas, The United States is ranked 50th in the world for its maternal mortality rate, and is one of eight countries in which the maternal mortality rate has been on the rise; and

Whereas, Recent studies have found that the estimated maternal mortality rate in the United States increased by approximately 27 percent between 2000 and 2014, with the rate increasing in nearly every state in the country; and

Whereas, Maternal deaths in the United States result from pregnancy-related causes such as hemorrhage, hypertensive disease, preeclampsia, embolic disease, and sepsis, addiction-related causes such as substance use disorder and overdose, and violent causes, including motor vehicle accidents, homicide, and suicide; and

Whereas, The most severe complications of pregnancy, generally referred to as severe maternal morbidity, affect more than 65,000 women in the United States each year; and

Whereas, Data from the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) shows African-American women are three times more likely to die from pregnancy-related complications or childbirth than White women and women of other races; and

Whereas, These statistics are a source of great concern for the CDC, health care providers, and patient advocacy organizations such as the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses, and the Preeclampsia Foundation; and

Whereas, Systemic reviews of maternal pregnancy-related and pregnancy-associated deaths are essential in determining strategies for developing prevention efforts, identifying at-risk populations, and understanding how to support expectant mothers and make pregnancy and the postpartum period safer; and

Whereas, The CDC recommends that maternal deaths be investigated through State maternal mortality review committees; and

Whereas, The committees include obstetricians and neonatologists from private and public health care settings and representatives of relevant academic, health, social service, policy, and community-based organizations, and make recommendations for preventing pregnancy-related and pregnancy-associated complications and deaths and identifying ways to improve quality of care for women and children; and