

“D.K.”, has been exceptional to work with over the last year. My staff and I have benefited enormously from D.K.’s knowledge and expertise on U.S. national security and Armed Services policy.

D.K. draws upon nearly two decades of service, which includes deployments to Iraq, Afghanistan, and Qatar. D.K. enlisted in the Army in 2000 and was commissioned as an officer in 2010. As an officer, D.K. distinguished himself by serving at the battalion, brigade, and division levels while operating in combined, joint, and partnered environments. Before D.K. joined my office, he served as the commander of the Headquarters and Headquarters Battery of the 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command at Fort Bliss, TX. At each post and here in the Senate, D.K. has served with distinction.

D.K. has always been one to go above and beyond because it is just part of his nature. He graduated from George Washington University in 2008 with a bachelor of science in health sciences while earning a place on the dean’s list. His education also includes a master of arts in intelligence studies with honors from American Military University and a master of professional studies degree in legislative affairs from George Washington University. D.K. is also a graduate of the Military Intelligence Captain’s Career Course at Fort Huachuca, AZ, where he achieved placement in the top 20 percent of his class.

CPT Demetrius Keishun Morris is the epitome of a dedicated public servant. He has put himself in harm’s way to defend our rights and freedom and to help secure freedom for people in other countries. We owe an enormous debt of gratitude to our servicemen and women, especially those who make a career in the military. It is always important to acknowledge their family members who share in the sacrifice, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank D.K.’s wife Lakisha and their three wonderful children, Cornelius, Samara, and Roman, for their support and for allowing us to utilize the expertise and experience of their husband and father this last year. My staff and I will miss D.K.; at the same, however, we are also excited to see what’s in store next for this exceptional individual, who will always be part of Team Cardin.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL GREGORY A. SCHEIDHAUER

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize and honor the distinguished career of U.S. Army Reserve COL Gregory A. Scheidhauer as he retires from his nearly three decades of service to our Nation. Dedication to his country and commitment to his fellow servicemembers are qualities that define Greg’s career, and his years of effort have made lasting improvements to our Nation’s defense.

Born in Silver Spring, MD, Greg went on to attend Bowie High School and,

later, West Virginia University, where he earned his bachelor of science degree in sports management in 1990. He joined the Army ROTC program at West Virginia University in 1988 and began his military service upon graduation, commissioning in 1990.

In 2009, Greg joined my office in the House of Representatives as a defense fellow, where he served alongside my staff for the year. His expertise, assistance, and advice were invaluable to the team, and our office, as well as all Hoo-siers, greatly benefitted from his work. After his service in my office, Colonel Scheidhauer became a legislative liaison for the Office of the Chief of Army Reserve at Fort Belvoir.

In 2010, Greg deployed to Iraq and served as the director of logistics for the Joint Forces Special Operations Component Command-Iraq, JSOCC-I, during Operation Iraq Freedom and Operation New Dawn. He worked to ensure the U.S. Special Operations Forces servicemembers throughout Iraq had the supplies and equipment they needed for counterterrorism operations and training. Upon his return, he was selected to serve as a congressional budget liaison in the Army’s Congressional Budget Office.

Greg’s hard work in that role led to his being named the Chief of the Army Reserve Legislative Affairs Division in 2014, where, for nearly 5 years, he oversaw the legislative liaison team and worked to engage and inform Members of Congress and our staff members on the Army Reserve.

As we thank Greg for his dedicated work over his career, we must also thank his family who have been his support system through it all: his wife Andrea; daughter, Alexis; and sons, Brennan and Christopher. The sacrifice of our servicemembers is immense, but so is that of their families, and we are grateful that they have shared Greg’s time and expertise in the service of our country.

Greg has served with distinction and honor and now will be retiring to spend time playing golf and basketball, cheering on the Mountaineers and the Redskins, and, of course, spending time with his family. I congratulate Greg on his career of service and wish him the best as he moves into the next chapter of his life.

TRIBUTE TO DARREN HEDLUND

Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, today I recognize Darren Hedlund, a legislative assistant in my Washington, DC, office for all of the hard work he has done for me, his colleagues, and the State of South Dakota.

Darren is a native of Wall, SD. He graduated magna cum laude from the University of South Dakota before receiving his master of public and international affairs from the University of Pittsburgh. While working on his undergraduate degree, Darren also served as president of his fraternity, Pi Kappa Alpha.

Darren was one of the first people I hired after being sworn in as Senator in January of 2015. He began his career at the front desk in my office, answering phones. Through hard work and dedication, Darren worked his way up to legislative assistant, handling cybersecurity, Veterans Affairs, foreign affairs, telecommunication, and homeland security issues for my office. Darren has played an instrumental role in my office by providing insight and guidance into these issues.

Darren has been a dedicated and faithful public servant during his time spent here in the Senate. I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Darren for the fine work he has done. I wish him and his wife Reagan well as they take on life’s new challenges together. As he continues his career of public service, he bears the esteem of a grateful State and my utmost gratitude for a job well done.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL MATTHEW J. BURGER

• Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate Col. Matthew J. Burger on his promotion to brigadier general. Matthew Burger graduated from the Air Force Academy in 1990 and served on Active Duty as an HH-1 instructor pilot and chief of safety with the 27th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron, and later as chief of group Standardization and Evaluation, 85th Operations Group, Keflavik Naval Air Station, Iceland. Following 10 years on Active Duty, he joined the Air Force Reserve, where he has served in numerous command positions during his career. He has over 4,500 flight hours and is a command pilot. While serving, he has earned the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Unit Award, the Combat Readiness Medal with three silver oak leaf clusters, the National Defense Service Medal with bronze service star, and many other awards and decorations. Matthew is also the grandson of my late longtime staffer, Betty Burger, from Fairfield, IA. On December 12, 2018, he was unanimously confirmed by the Senate to the rank of brigadier general. •

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR PAUL V. BANKSTON

• Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Mr. President, I am pleased to commend MAJ Paul V. Bankston for his dedication to duty and service as an Army legislative fellow on my staff. In January 2019, Paul will transfer to the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army, where he will serve as a congressional budget liaison.

A native of Okeechobee, FL, Paul received a bachelor of science degree in applied science and technology from Thomas Edison State College. He also earned a master of arts degree in legislative affairs from George Washington

University. Paul enlisted in the Army in 2000, rose through the enlisted ranks to sergeant first class, and received his commission in 2008.

Most recently, Paul served as the Army legislative fellow on my staff, and for the Honorable Senator Thad Cochran prior to that. His operational experience in Africa and the Middle East, in addition to his technical expertise in special operations, medical logistics, and combat medical care, have been pivotal in helping to shape Department of Defense appropriations for fiscal years 2018 and 2019.

He has served the State of Mississippi and the Nation admirably. The staff and I have enjoyed the benefit of Paul's counsel and have truly enjoyed working with him. Paul's leadership has brought great credit to the army, and I appreciate and commend his commitment to continue to serve our Nation.

It is a pleasure to recognize and thank MAJ Paul V. Bankston for his exceptional service to our country. My staff and I extend our gratitude to Paul and his family for their sacrifices and service to the Nation, and we wish him well as he takes the next step in his admirable career.●

TRIBUTE TO STEPHEN "SKI" SUCHARSKI

● Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the tremendous service of Stephen "Ski" Sucharski, who joined our staff as a Brookings Fellow this year. Ski's expertise in defense, veterans, and homeland security issues was invaluable, helping to ensure we met the needs of constituents throughout our great State of Maryland. Ski came to our office with a wealth of policy knowledge from his civilian work at the Department of Defense and his many years serving our country in the U.S. Army. Ski's years of service enhanced our office in many ways, perhaps most notably in veterans affairs. I am particularly grateful to Ski for his dedication to improving services for veterans in our State and across our Nation. Ski's generosity, willingness to pitch in wherever needed, and sense of humor made him a great colleague and terrific staffer in my office. We owe him a debt of gratitude, and we will miss him greatly. My whole staff and I wish him well as he embarks on his next journey in service to our country.●

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 12:20 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, without amendment:

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. 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.

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

H.R. 887. An act to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to extend honorary citizenship to otherwise qualified noncitizens who enlisted in the Philippines and died while serving on active duty with the United States Armed Forces during certain periods of hostilities, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2315. An act to posthumously award the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to Glen Doherty, Tyrone Woods, J. Christopher Stevens, and Sean Smith, in recognition of their contributions to the Nation.

H.R. 6219. An act to support the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Georgia, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that House has passed the following bill, with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 2736. An act to develop a long-term strategic vision and a comprehensive, multifaceted, and principled United States policy for the Indo-Pacific region, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 6964) to reauthorize and improve the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The message further announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 2454. An act to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish a data framework to provide access for appropriate personnel to law enforcement and other information of the Department, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1918. An act to oppose loans at international financial institutions for the Government of Nicaragua unless the Government of Nicaragua is taking effective steps to hold free, fair, and transparent elections, and for other purposes.

S. 3237. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at

120 12th Street Lobby in Columbus, Georgia, as the "Richard W. Williams, Jr., Chapter of the Triple Nickles (555th P.I.A.) Post Office".

S. 3209. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 413 Washington Avenue in Belleville, New Jersey, as the "Private Henry Svehla Post Office Building".

S. 825. An act to provide for the conveyance of certain property to the Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium located in Sitka, Alaska, and for other purposes.

S. 2465. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize a sickle cell disease prevention and treatment demonstration program and to provide for sickle cell disease research, surveillance, prevention, and treatment.

S. 3029. An act to revise and extend the Prematurity Research Expansion and Education for Mothers who deliver Infants Early Act (PREEMIE Act).

S. 3119. An act to allow for the taking of sea lions on the Columbia River and its tributaries to protect endangered and threatened species of salmon and other nonlisted fish species.

H.R. 3996. An act to amend title 28, United States Code, to permit other courts to transfer certain cases to United States Tax Court.

H.R. 1872. An act to promote access for United States diplomats and other officials, journalists, and other citizens to Tibetan areas of the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5759. An act to improve executive agency digital services, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

At 1:07 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 bill, without amendment:

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.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 887. An act to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to extend honorary citizenship to otherwise qualified noncitizens who enlisted in the Philippines and died while serving on active duty with the United States Armed Forces during certain periods of hostilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 2315. An act to posthumously award the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to Glen Doherty, Tyrone Woods, J. Christopher Stevens, and Sean Smith in recognition of their contributions to the Nation; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 6219. An act to support the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Georgia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar: