

Lieutenant Colonel Heath deployed to Iraq to serve with Marine Wing Support Squadron-473 as a logistics officer.

In 2013, Lieutenant Colonel Heath attended the Naval Command and Staff course at the Naval War College. Upon graduation, she served as the operational sponsor for Marine for Life, Manpower and Reserve Affairs in Quantico, VA. In this capacity, she sought to ensure that all Marines maintained a connection to the Corps, regardless of their stage in life. Lieutenant Colonel Heath continued her service to the Nation when she joined the operational sponsor for the Readiness Support Program, Marine Corps Individual Reserve Support Activity, Marine Forces Reserve, New Orleans, LA.

Since 2016, Lieutenant Colonel Heath has served in the Office of Legislative Affairs, Headquarters, Marine Corps, Pentagon. In this capacity, she has worked tirelessly while balancing military, political, and budgetary priorities for the Congress.

Upon retirement, Lieutenant Colonel Heath will return to the great State of Oklahoma and will reside in Norman, OK. On behalf of my colleagues and the entire U.S. Senate, I want to personally thank Lieutenant Colonel Heath for her more than two decades of service to the Marine Corps and our Nation, and I wish her well in her future endeavors.●

#### TRIBUTE TO KATHY HADLEY

● Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a longtime advocate for sustainable living and conservation who has worked tirelessly to make the world around her a better, healthier place.

Kathy Hadley is retiring from her position as the executive director of the National Center for Appropriate Technology in Butte, MT. For over 30 years, Kathy has devoted her life to NCAT's mission: championing small-scale, local, and sustainable solutions to reduce poverty, promote healthy communities, and protect natural resources.

Kathy has had a hand in some of the most important conservation movements of the past 30 years, and programs at NCAT under her direction have ranged from developing energy-saving strategies for low-income communities to helping out farmers looking to adopt more sustainable farming practices, as well as AmeriCorps program that gives young people an opportunity to serve the public while working towards clean air and clean water.

I am particularly fond of the Armed-to-Farm Program, which teaches veterans the ins and outs of farming.

Her career has also led her to distinguished service with the National Wildlife Federation, where she fought to ensure wildlife continues to thrive in our rapidly changing world.

I am thankful for Kathy's commitment to the environment, to sustainability, and to building a better future

for our children and grandchildren. She has left an indelible mark on Montana and on the world, and I wish her and her husband Wayne and their two sons, Erik and Liam, the best.

Enjoy your retirement, and job well done.●

#### TRIBUTE TO JOHN FALKENBURY

● Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to Mr. John Falkenbury, the president and chief operating officer for the United Service Organizations, USO, of North Carolina, on his decades of service to the great State of North Carolina.

For over a decade, since his initial appointment as president and COO for the USO of North Carolina in 2009, John has been integral in coordinating, planning, and leading the operations of the USO State headquarters, five USO fixed centers, and mobile centers in locations spanning the entire State. John's leadership skills were prominently displayed in his ability to mobilize thousands of volunteers over the years to support countless Active-Duty servicemembers, veterans, and their families. John's extensive resume is a testament to his lifelong commitment to public service, which includes his past role as president and CEO of Five Oaks Nursing Center in Concord, NC, serving as the managing partner of the Falkenbury Family LLC, and as the president of the Stephen D. Falkenbury Jr. Foundation in Charlotte, NC. Prior to his work for the USO, John served in the U.S. Army for 20 years, which included numerous assignments across the United States and in Germany.

The USO centers across the State of North Carolina provide critical resources and support to our men and women in uniform and their families. These services include transition assistance, financial literacy, child educational programs, deployment, and homecoming operations, military and civilian outreach programs, Fallen and Wounded Warrior escort services, and a focus on providing the entire community with support and assistance. Through his leadership, dedication, and passion for service, John Falkenbury has been a champion in ensuring these programs are readily available for anyone who needs them.

The North Carolina USO has a strong track record of dedicated support of servicemembers at military installations, including Fort Bragg, Camp Lejeune, and Seymour Johnson Air Force Base. In 2016, when the devastating Hurricane Matthew flooded large portions of Eastern North Carolina, John assisted in the delivery of 1,000 care packages via Blackhawk helicopter to soldiers and civilians in afflicted areas. A USO mobile center deployed near Lumberton, NC, for 5 days to provide basic necessity items, a BBQ dinner, satellite access, and internet service to over 400 servicemembers.

As a Senator, a member of the USO Congressional Caucus, and a North Car-

olinian, I am pleased to congratulate John Falkenbury on his retirement and for his impressive career of public service and steadfast commitment to our country.●

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:20 a.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, without amendment:

S. 744. An act to amend section 175b of title 18, United States Code, to correct a scrivener's error.

S. 998. An act to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to expand support for police officer family services, stress reduction, and suicide prevention, 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. 677. An act to amend gendered terms in Federal law relating to the President and the President's spouse.

H.R. 1044. An act to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to eliminate the per-country numerical limitation for employment-based immigrants, to increase the per-country numerical limitation for family-sponsored immigrants, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1569. An act to amend title 28, United States Code, to add Flagstaff and Yuma to the list of locations in which court shall be held in the judicial district for the State of Arizona.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 677. An act to amend gendered terms in Federal law relating to the President and the President's spouse; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 1044. An act to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to eliminate the per-country numerical limitation for employment-based immigrants, to increase the per-country numerical limitation for family-sponsored immigrants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### 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-1916. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Iran-Related Multilateral Sanctions Regime Efforts" covering the period August 7, 2018 to February 6, 2019; to the Committees on Foreign Relations; Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; and Finance.

EC-1917. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Operation of the Tropical Forest Conservation Act and the Enterprise for the Americas Initiative Calendar Year 2018 Annual Report to Congress"; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1918. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Annual Report for fiscal year 2018; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1919. A communication from the Regulation Policy Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Case Management Services Grant Program" (RIN2900-AQ15) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 8, 2019; 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-110. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico requesting the United States Congress pass H.R. 2360 which seeks to establish a Renewable Energy Grant Program within the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for the purpose of promoting renewable energy in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands of the United States; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

### SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1084

Congressman Ted W. Lieu, the Resident Commissioner of Puerto Rico in Washington D.C., the Hon. Jenniffer González-Colón, and Congresswoman Stacey Plaskett introduced H.R. 2360 on April 25, 2019, which directs the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a Renewable Energy Grant Program for the purpose of awarding funds to not-for-profit entities so they may develop and use renewable energy systems.

This legislation, which shall be known as the "Renewable Energy for Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands Act," seeks to promote investment in renewable energy, energy efficiency, energy storage, and microgrid and smart grid projects. The organizations that are awarded these grants may receive technical assistance from the Department of Energy national laboratories. Furthermore, the measure appropriates funds for the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study regarding renewable energy and energy efficiency in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands of the United States not later than one hundred and eighty (180) days after the date of enactment of the Act. The study shall consider the potential to modify existing electric power systems, use renewable energy sources, expand the use of microgrids, and improve energy resiliency.

It is worth noting that H.R. 2360 is consistent with the recently approved Act No. 17-2019, known as the "Puerto Rico Energy Public Policy Act," which seeks to transform our electrical system into one that is robust, resilient, reliable, eco-friendly, and affordable, and that serves as the basis for the Island's economic development. Act No. 17, supra, directs the elimination of electric power generation from fossil fuels in Puerto Rico and, for such purpose, establishes a new and ambitious Renewable Portfolio Standard that requires that forty percent (40%) energy generation from renewable sources by 2025; sixty percent (60%) by 2040; and one hundred percent (100%) by 2050. In addition, it encourages the use of energy storage technology for all consumer levels, promotes the integration of distributed generation and microgrids, and seeks to attain thirty percent (30%) energy efficiency by 2040.

However, it is a fact that Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands are exposed to suffering the consequences of catastrophic hurricanes such as Irma and Maria which left millions of U.S. citizens without electric power service for a long period of time. The passage of these two hurricanes in 2017 and the reality of climate change has once again raised awareness of the importance of having an electrical system that is resilient to weather events that have become stronger and more frequent.

H.R. 2360 complements the efforts made by the Government of Puerto Rico to transform our electrical system and contributes towards achieving one hundred percent (100%) energy generation from renewable sources by 2050, therefore, the Senate of Puerto Rico supports this important initiative.

*Be it resolved by the Senate of Puerto Rico:*

Section 1.—To express the support of the Senate of Puerto Rico to, and request the United States Congress to pass H.R. 2360 which seeks to establish a Renewable Energy Grant Program within the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for the purpose of promoting renewable energy in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands of the United States of America.

Section 2.—Upon its approval, a copy of this Resolution translated into English shall be delivered to the leadership of the United States Congress, congress members Ted W. Lieu and Stacey Plaskett, and the Resident Commissioner of Puerto Rico in Washington D.C., Jenniffer González-Colón.

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

POM-111. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Hawaii urging the United States Congress to embrace the Aarhus Convention and make protection of the environment and decision-making on environmental policies the centerpiece of national debate and practice; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

### SENATE RESOLUTION No. 99

Whereas, Hawai'i is recognized as a global partner and local leader in promoting human rights to create a culture of democracy, rule of law, and protection of the planet through its adoption of global and regional standards to guide decision-making processes; and

Whereas, Hawai'i is guided by traditional Hawaiian values and emerging international human rights visions to generate good governance and ensure participation in policy-making and protection of our islands and the planet; and

Whereas, in September 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the historic 2030 Development Agenda entitled "Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", a comprehensive, compassionate, creative, and courageous plan of action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity; and

Whereas, in December 2015, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of Parties agreed to the Paris Agreement, calling for the first time to limit future increases in the global average temperature to 1.5 degrees Celsius; and

Whereas, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) is an important instrument for achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda; and

Whereas, the Aarhus Convention consists of numerous articles covering ideas and coordinating implementation including the following:

- (1) Access to Environmental Information;
  - (2) Collection and Dissemination of Environmental Information;
  - (3) Public Participation in Decisions on Specific Activities;
  - (4) Public Participation Concerning Plans, Programmes and Policies Relating to the Environment;
  - (5) Public Participation During the Preparation of Executive Regulations and/or Generally Applicable Legally Binding Normative Instruments; and
  - (6) Access to Justice; and
- Whereas, the parties to the Aarhus Convention:

(1) Aimed to further accountability of and transparency in decision-making and to strengthen public support for decisions on the environment;

(2) Recognized that that the public needs to be aware of procedures for participation in environmental decision-making, have free access to the political process, and know how to exercise that access;

(3) Recognized the importance of respective roles for individual citizens, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector in environmental protection; and

(4) Desired to promote environmental education to further the understanding of the environment and sustainable development and to encourage widespread public awareness of and participation in decisions affecting the environment and sustainable development; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, that by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, that this body engages, endorses, accepts, and adopts the Aarhus Convention; and be it further

*Resolved*, that the Congress of the United States is requested to embrace the Aarhus Convention and make protection of the environment and decision-making on environmental policies the centerpiece of national debate and practice; and be it further

*Resolved*, that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, Vice President of the United States, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, Majority Leader of the United States House of Representatives, Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives, Majority Leader of the United States Senate, Minority Leader of the United States Senate, Hawai'i's congressional delegation, Governor, mayor of each county, Secretary General of the United Nations, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and Chairs of Hawai'i's Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission.

POM-112. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Texas urging the United States Congress to enact legislation to consolidate disaster recovery housing funding into a single Disaster Housing Response and Recovery Block Grant; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

### SENATE RESOLUTION No. 816

Whereas, Hurricane Harvey struck the Texas coast on August 25, 2017, causing an estimated \$125 billion in damage; and

Whereas, The second most destructive storm in American history, the hurricane impacted approximately 30 percent of the population of Texas, destroying homes, damaging infrastructure, and displacing thousands of families along the coast; and

Whereas, The Federal Emergency Management Agency received nearly 800,000 applications from affected Texans for some form of assistance; as many as 83 percent of the people whose homes flooded did not have flood