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I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Tony Clifford for his distinguished service to our country and to wish him all the best in the coming years as he enjoys his well-earned retirement.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:17 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 bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 312. An act to reaffirm the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe reservation, and for other purposes.

H.R. 375. An act to amend the Act of June 18, 1934, to reaffirm the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for Indian Tribes, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1892. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to make technical corrections to the requirement that the Secretary of Homeland Security submit quadrennial homeland security reviews, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 201(a)(2) of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974, Public Law 93-344, the Speaker and the President pro tempore of the Senate hereby jointly appoint the following individual to the Congressional Budget Office, effective June 3, 2019, for the term expiring January 3, 2023: Dr. Phillip Swagel, Director.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 375. An act to amend the Act of June 18, 1934, to reaffirm the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for Indian Tribes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

H.R. 1892. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to make technical corrections to the requirement that the Secretary of Homeland Security submit quadrennial homeland security reviews, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

H.R. 312. An act to reaffirm the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe reservation, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2578. An act to reauthorize the National Flood Insurance Program, and for other purposes.

PRIVILEGED NOMINATION REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

On request by Senator GARY PETERS, under the authority of S. Res. 116, 112th Congress, the following nomination was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental

Affairs: Troy D. Edgar, of California, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Homeland Security, vice Charles H. Fulghum.

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-1289. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Glufosinate Ammonium; Pesticide Tolerances [Olive, Stone Fruit (crop group 12-12), Tree Nuts (crop group 14-12) and Soybean Hull]” (FRL No. 9991-49-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 15, 2019; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1290. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared in Executive Order 12170 on November 14, 1979; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1291. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations and Standards Branch, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Oil and Gas and Sulfur Operations on the Outer Continental Shelf - Blowout Preventer Systems and Well Control Revisions” (RIN1014-AA39) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 15, 2019; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1292. A communication from the Director of Human Resources Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, five (5) reports relative to vacancies in the Environmental Protection Agency, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 15, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1293. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; GA and TN; Interstate Transport (Prongs 1 and 2) for the 2010 1-Hour NO₂ Standard” (FRL No. 9993-71-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 15, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1294. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; New Mexico; Approval of Revised Statutes; Error Correction” (FRL No. 9993-58-Region 6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 15, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1295. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; OR; 2015 Ozone NAAQS Interstate Transport Requirements” (FRL No. 9993-75-Region 10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 15, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1296. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “National Priorities List” (FRL No.

9993-49-OLEM) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 15, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1297. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Regulation to Require Drug Pricing Transparency” (RIN0938-AT87) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 15, 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1298. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Recognition and Deferral of Section 987 Gain or Loss” (RIN1545-BN63) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 15, 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1299. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “User Fees Relating to Enrolled Agents and Enrolled Retirement Plans Agents” (RIN1545-BO38) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 15, 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1300. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Credit for Carbon Oxide Sequestration - 2019 Section 45Q Inflation Adjustment Factor” (Notice 2019-31) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 15, 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1301. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Revenue Ruling: Cash Distributions in Redemption of Stock of Former S Corporations During the Post-Termination Transition Period” (Notice 2019-13) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 15, 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1302. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safe Harbor for Trades of Player Contracts and Draft Picks” (Notice 2019-18) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 15, 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1303. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Limited Expansion of the Determination Letter Program for Individually Designed Plans” (Notice 2019-20) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 15, 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1304. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Revenue Procedure 2019-22” (Rev. Proc. 2019-12) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 15, 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1305. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “2018 Section 45K(d)(2)(C) Reference Price” (Notice 2019-28) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 15, 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1306. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Request for Comments on Credit for Carbon Oxide Sequestration" (Notice 2019-32) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 15, 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1307. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Request for Comments on Necessary Clarifications to Normalization Requirements for Excess Tax Reserves Resulting from the Corporate Tax Rate Decrease" (Notice 2019-33) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 15, 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1308. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Maximum Values for 2019 For Use With Vehicle Cents-Per-Mile and Fleet-Average Valuation Rules" (Notice 2019-34) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 15, 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1309. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a Determination and Certification under Section 40A of the Arms Export Control Act relative to countries not cooperating fully with United States antiterrorism efforts; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1310. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Semiannual Report of the Office of Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2018 through March 31, 2019; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1311. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Status of the Gulf of Mexico Bryde's Whale" (RIN0648-XD669) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 15, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1312. A communication from the Chairman and Chief Executive and Administrative Officer, Federal Labor Relations Authority, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of Inspector General Semiannual Report for the period of October 1, 2018 through March 31, 2019; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1313. A communication from the Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, nine (9) reports relative to vacancies in the Office of National Drug Control Policy, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 15, 2019; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1314. A communication from the Director, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for the report entitled "2018 Report of Statistics Required by the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1315. A communication from the Secretary, Judicial Conference of the United States, transmitting, a report relative to Article III judgeship recommendations and corresponding draft legislation for the 116th Congress; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1316. A communication from the General Counsel, Department of Commerce, transmitting proposed legislation that would amend the South Pacific Tuna Act; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1317. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Environmental Observation and Prediction performing the duties of Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Chesapeake Bay Office Biennial Report to Congress; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petition or memorial was laid before the Senate and was referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-60. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana urging the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to review and consider eliminating provisions of federal law which reduce Social Security benefits for those receiving pension benefits from certain federal, state, or local government retirement or pension systems, plans, or funds; to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 20

Whereas, the Congress of the United States of America has enacted both the Government Pension Offset (GPO), reducing the spousal and survivor Social Security benefit, and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), reducing the earned Social Security benefits payable to any person who also receives a public pension benefit; and

Whereas, the GPO negatively affects a spouse or survivor receiving a federal, state, or local government retirement or pension benefit who would also be entitled to a Social Security benefit earned by a spouse; and

Whereas, the GPO formula reduces the spousal or survivor Social Security benefit by two-thirds of the amount of the federal, state, or local government retirement or pension benefit received by the spouse or survivor, in many cases completely eliminating the Social Security benefit even though their spouses paid Social Security taxes for many years; and

Whereas, the GPO has a harsh effect on hundreds of thousands of citizens and undermines the original purpose of the Social Security dependent/survivor benefit; and

Whereas, according to recent Social Security Administration figures, more than half a million individuals nationally are affected by the GPO; and

Whereas, the WEP applies to those persons who have earned federal, state, or local government retirement or pension benefits, in addition to working in employment covered under Social Security and paying into the Social Security system; and

Whereas, the WEP reduces the earned Social Security benefit using an averaged indexed monthly earnings formula and may reduce Social Security benefits for affected persons by as much as one-half of the retirement benefit earned as a public servant in employment not covered under Social Security; and

Whereas, the WEP causes hardworking individuals to lose a significant portion of the Social Security benefits that they earn themselves; and

Whereas, according to recent Social Security Administration figures, more than one and a half million individuals nationally are affected by the WEP; and

Whereas, in certain circumstances both the WEP and GPO can be applied to a qualifying survivor's benefit, each independently reducing the available benefit and in combination eliminating a large portion of the total Social Security benefit available to the survivor; and

Whereas, because of the calculation characteristics of the GPO and the WEP, they have a disproportionately negative effect on employees working in lower-wage government jobs, like policemen, firefighters, teachers, and state employees; and

Whereas, Louisiana is making every effort to improve the quality of life of its citizens and to encourage them to live here lifelong, yet the current GPO and WEP provisions compromise their quality of life; and

Whereas, the number of people affected by GPO and WEP is growing every day as more and more people reach retirement age; and

Whereas, individuals drastically affected by the GPO or WEP may have no choice but to return to work after retirement in order to make ends meet, but the earnings accumulated during this return to work can further reduce the Social Security benefits the individual is entitled to; and

Whereas, the GPO and WEP are established in federal law, and repeal of the GPO and the WEP can only be enacted by congress: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to review the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision Social Security benefit reductions and to consider eliminating or reducing them; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. UDALL (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. TESTER, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 1499. A bill to establish National Wildlife Corridors to provide for the protection and restoration of certain native fish, wildlife, and plant species, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. ERNST (for herself and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 1500. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to improve and enhance protections for members of the Armed Forces who are victims of a sex-related or domestic violence offense, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself and Ms. ERNST):

S. 1501. A bill to modify the requirements for the longitudinal medical study of the Department of Defense on blast pressure exposure of members of the Armed Forces to assess the feasibility and advisability of uploading and sharing data, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Ms. ERNST, Mr. CRAMER, and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 1502. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to revise the shareholder