

Northern District of Alabama, and I certainly commend him for this accomplishment. At the time of his appointment, Judge Putnam was the youngest magistrate judge in the country at age 32.

Instrumental in the expansion of the role of magistrate judges, Judge Putnam worked to highlight their value in the judicial process. He acted as the chair and vice chair of the Northern District's Criminal Justice Act Administrative Committee, playing a significant role in ensuring the highest quality of representation of indigent criminal defendants in the Northern District under the Criminal Justice Act.

Judge Putnam is widely known for his volunteer work at the Cumberland School of Law in Birmingham, AL. He has taught a pretrial practice and procedure class since 2006 and directed many trial advocacy and moot court programs. The Cumberland School of Law named Judge Putnam the 2019 recipient of the Friend of the Law School Award in recognition of his time and dedication to the betterment of students at Cumberland. The Young Lawyers Section of the Birmingham Bar Association also selected him for the Judge Drayton Nobles James Award in 2016, where they honored his spirit of volunteerism.

As an advocate for the Northern District, Judge Putnam played an active role in using technology to improve efficiency. He has been a judicial resource for the Office of the Clerk while implementing procedural changes to the electronic filing system. Judge Putnam led the Court in establishing the eVoucher system, making it easier for attorneys and courts to process vouchers for appointed counsel in criminal cases.

Judge Putnam received his bachelor of arts from the University of Alabama and his juris doctorate from the University of Alabama School of Law. He graduated in the top 5 percent of his class and was a Hugo L. Black Scholar.

Judge Putnam's contributions to Alabama's judicial system are truly remarkable and will have an impact for generations to come. I am proud to take this time to recognize and thank him for his service to the people of our great State and his unwavering commitment to the rule of law. I join Judge Putnam's friends, family, and colleagues in wishing him the best of luck as he transitions into a new chapter of his life.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:57 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, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1200. An act to increase, effective as of December 1, 2019, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of cer-

tain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1812. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to furnish Vet Center readjustment counseling and related mental health services to certain individuals.

H.R. 1947. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to exempt transfers of funds from Federal agencies to the Department of Veterans Affairs for nonprofit corporations established under subchapter IV of chapter 73 of such title from certain provisions of the Economy Act, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2045. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department of Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2326. An act to amend the Social Security Act, to amend the Dignified Burial and Other Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 2012, and to direct the Secretaries of Veterans Affairs, Defense, Labor, and Homeland Security, and the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, to take certain actions to improve transition assistance to members of the Armed Forces who separate, retire, or are discharged from the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2333. An act to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct an assessment of the responsibilities, workload, and vacancy rates of Department of Veterans Affairs suicide prevention coordinators, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2340. An act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide to Congress notice of any suicide or attempted suicide of a veteran in a Department of Veterans Affairs facility, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2359. An act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a report on the Department of Veterans Affairs advancing of whole health transformation.

H.R. 2372. An act to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct an assessment of all memoranda of understanding and memoranda of agreement between Under Secretary of Health and non-Department of Veterans Affairs entities relating to suicide prevention and mental health services.

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-1338. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fluensulfone; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL 9992-69-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 21, 2019; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1339. A communication from the Program and Management Analyst, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Miscellaneous Conservation Provisions" (RIN0578-AA69) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 17, 2019; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1340. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Department of Energy Activities Relating to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, Fiscal Year 2018"; to the Committees on Energy and Natural Resources; Appropriations; and Armed Services.

EC-1341. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Hydroelectric Licensing Regulations Under the America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018" ((RIN1902-AF59) (Docket No. RM19-6-000)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 21, 2019; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1342. 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; Georgia; Permit Exemption for Fire Fighting" (FRL No. 9993-89-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 21, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1343. 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; Georgia; Miscellaneous Revisions" (FRL No. 9994-14-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 21, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1344. 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; Illinois; Redesignation of the Illinois Portion of the St. Louis, MO-IL Area to attainment of the 1997 Annual Standard for Fine Particulate Matter" (FRL No. 9994-11-Region 5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 21, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1345. 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; Indiana; Volatile Organic Liquid Storage Tank Rules" (FRL No. 9994-10-Region 5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 21, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1346. 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; Kentucky; Jefferson County Process Operations" (FRL No. 9993-90-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 21, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1347. 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; Massachusetts; Nonattainment New Source Review Program Revisions; Infrastructure Provisions for National Ambient Air Quality Standards; Nonattainment New Source Review Requirements for the 2008 8-Hour Ozone Standard" (FRL No. 9993-84-Region 1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 21, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1348. 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; NC; Permitting Revisions" (FRL No. 9993-97-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 21, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1349. 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; Ohio; Revisions to

Particulate Matter Rules" (FRL No. 9994-12-Region 5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 21, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1350. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; State of Montana; Missoula PM10 Nonattainment Area Limited Maintenance Plan and Redesignation Request" (FRL No. 9993-66-Region 8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 21, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1351. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval of Air Quality Implementation Plans; New York; Cross-State Air Pollution Rule; NO_x Ozone Season Group 2, NO_x Annual, and SO₂ Group 1 Trading Programs" (FRL No. 9993-69-Region 2) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 21, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1352. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2019-0032 - 2019-0036); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1353. A communication from the Director, White House Liaison, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Chief Financial Officer of the Department of Education, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 20, 2019; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1354. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting proposed legislation relative to the responsibilities of the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) within the General Services Administration (GSA); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1355. A communication from the General Counsel, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, two (2) reports relative to vacancies in the Office of Management and Budget, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 16, 2019; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1356. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report on applications made by the Government for authority to conduct electronic surveillance for foreign intelligence during calendar year 2018 relative to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978; to the Committees on the Judiciary; Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; and Select Committee on Intelligence.

EC-1357. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary/Director, Department of Homeland Security, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 16, 2019; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1358. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of

Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Adjusting Program Fees for the Student and Exchange Visitor Program" (RIN1653-AA74) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 21, 2019; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1359. 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 "Core Values, Characteristics, and Customer Experience Principles of the Department" (RIN2900-AQ60) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 21, 2019; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-1360. A communication from the Assistant Director, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Streamlining Annual Rate Publication for VA Educational Benefits" (RIN2900-AP99) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 21, 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-63. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Georgia urging the United States Congress to pass funding legislation that will secure the southern border of the United States; to the Committee on Appropriations.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 114

Whereas, it is imperative that the United States Congress pass the laws needed to provide the necessary funding for securing the southern border of this great nation; and

Whereas, the growing crisis of illegal immigration threatens the security of United States citizens; and

Whereas, in 2017 and 2018 alone, approximately 235,000 illegal immigrants were arrested; more than half of those arrests were for violent crimes against Americans, 4,000 of whom were murdered; and

Whereas, each week, 300 Americans die of using heroin that comes to this country through drug smuggling at our southern border; and

Whereas, a high steel barrier along 234 miles of this nation's southern border would effectively prevent illegal immigrants and contraband from reaching the United States; and

Whereas, the Trump administration has requested \$5.7 billion for the construction of a steel barrier along the southern border, \$4.2 billion for detention center materials and personnel, \$563 million for additional immigration judges and support staff to reduce the backlog of immigration cases, \$211 million for additional border patrol agents, \$571 million for additional ICE personnel, and \$675 million to prevent illegal drugs and weapons from crossing our borders; and

Whereas, Congress has not yet responded to the Trump administration's request to secure the nation's southern border; and

Whereas, if Congress imposed a tariff on all moneys wired by individuals with no proof of citizenship or who are not in the country legally, it would provide the funding for the necessary infrastructure to secure the southern border: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this body urge Congress to pass funding legislation that will make the security of the southern border of the United States a reality; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the President of the Senate, to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and to each member of the congressional delegation from this state.

POM-64. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Georgia urging the United States Congress to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the World War II Merrill's Marauders; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 466

Whereas, in August, 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill proposed creation of a top-secret, "expendable" American ground unit to engage in a "long-range penetration mission" behind enemy lines in Japanese occupied Burma to cut off communications and supply lines and capture northern Burma's only strategic, all-weather Myitkyina airfield; and

Whereas, President Roosevelt issued a 1943 call for volunteers for "a dangerous and hazardous mission," answered by approximately 3,000 American Infantrymen from stateside, the Caribbean, and the South Pacific, representing 15 ethnic groups from every state and including a Bataan Death March survivor, Nisei interpreters, a Native American code talker, and Pearl Harbor survivors; and

Whereas, the top-secret unit, expecting no survivors, was officially designated in January, 1944, as the 5307th Composite Unit Provisional (CUP), code-named "Galahad," which later became known as "Merrill's Marauders," after their leader, Brigadier General Frank D. Merrill; and

Whereas, in February, 1944, the Marauders began their approximately 1,000 mile march through dense Burmese jungle and up the Himalayan Mountains with no artillery support, carrying only what they could pack on their backs or mules, and would become the first Americans to engage the Japanese on the ground in Asia and the first Americans to fight there since the 1900 Boxer Rebellion; and

Whereas, the Marauders fought valiantly during their five-month march to the Myitkyina airfield, defeating the much larger and better equipped elite Japanese 18th Division in five major and 30 minor engagements, and no other WWII U.S. combat force, except the First Marine Division which took and held Guadalcanal for four months, experienced as much uninterrupted jungle fighting; and

Whereas, the Marauders endured starvation, disease, monsoons, and isolation, which were exacerbated by inadequate aerial resupply drops, and malaria, typhus, dysentery, and other jungle maladies inflicted more casualties on the Marauders than the Japanese; and

Whereas, only several hundred Marauders remained fit enough, after climbing the Himalaya's disease infested, 6,100 foot Naura Hkyat Pass, to seize their objective of the Myitkyina airfield, which enabled supplies to be flown into Burma to connect the Ledo and Burma roads so a crucial Allied pathway could be forged into China; and

Whereas, on August 10, 1944, when the 5307th CUP was deactivated, without even a formation, only about 100 skeletal-looking Merrill's Marauders were left in Burma with the remainder evacuated due to jungle diseases, exhaustion, and malnutrition; and

Whereas, for their bravery, sacrifice, and success, Merrill's Marauders were awarded numerous medals and decorations, including the Presidential Unit Citation, and each member of the 5307th CUP has the "rare distinction" of being awarded a Bronze Star; and