

Major General Berry has received numerous awards and recognitions for his service to the United States during his career, including the Legion of Merit for exceptional conduct in the performance of his services to our Nation, and has had a positive impact on the lives of many servicemembers, peers, and superiors. His accomplishments reflect highly not only on himself, but also on the men and women of our Nation's military. As his time in uniform comes to an end, we honor his dedication to our country and his invaluable service to the U.S. Air Force and Arkansas National Guard.

It was a genuine pleasure to have worked with MG Mark Berry throughout his years serving his country and our State. I commend General Berry for his exceptional service and decorated career and greatly appreciate his friendship of many years. We wish him all the best as he begins his retirement from the U.S. Armed Forces.●

RECOGNIZING LEVATAS

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, as chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, it is my honor to recognize a small business that exemplifies innovation, entrepreneurship, and hard work. This week, it is my privilege to name Levatas of Palm Beach Gardens, FL, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Levatas is a strategic marketing and consulting firm that uses artificial intelligence—AI—and machine learning technologies to develop solutions for their clients. They utilize AI technology to help the manufacturing industry and other companies better understand their customers. Levatas was started 13 years ago by Chris Nielsen in his Jupiter, FL, garage. Nielsen and his team have since expanded to become one of south Florida's leader in AI solutions.

Moving from Jupiter, FL, Levatas expanded to their current office in Palm Beach Gardens and recently announced a second expansion, headquartered in Rosemary Square, where an additional 50 new jobs will be created.

A large part of their success lies in Levatas's excellent company culture. In fact, Levatas was recently honored by Entrepreneur magazine in the “2018 Top Company Cultures” for the “Small Companies” category. They have also been recognized by the Florida community as well. In 2018, Palm Beach Tech Association awarded Chris Nielsen, Ryan Gay, CEO of Levatas, and Levatas Golden Palm awards for excellence. In addition to numerous accolades, Levatas has made significant contributions to their community. Through Levatas's GenerosiTeam initiative, employees have supported local philanthropic organizations including the Big Heart Brigade, Sheridan House, One Blood Organization Blood Drive, Children's Miracle Network donation drive, and other nonprofits.

Levatas has cemented themselves as a local hub for innovation in the Palm

Beach community. Levatas's extensive clientele spans many industries and includes companies such as Royal Caribbean Cruise Line, Orangetheory Fitness, SunTrust Bank, HSBC, Dell, IBM, Discover the Palm Beaches, Duffy's Sports Grill, and more. Renowned for their phenomenal quality of service, Levatas's innovative solutions for digital transformation showcase their significant experience in building technology and bringing products to market.

Levatas has remained true to their core values by focusing on quality service with an expert ability to provide innovative, creative, and experienced solutions to shape brands and build technology. Furthermore, Levatas is a phenomenal example of how hard work can lead to success. It is with great pleasure that I extend my congratulations to Chris Nielsen and all of the members of the Levatas community. Levatas has an exciting future ahead, and I look forward to watching your continued success.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Roberts, 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.)

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

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

H.R. 1327. To extend authorization for the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund of 2001 through fiscal year 2092, 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-1992. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Mid-Session Review of the Budget of the U.S. Government for Fiscal Year 2020”; to the Committees on Appropriations; and the Budget.

EC-1993. A communication from the Senior Official performing the duties of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of three (3) officers authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of major general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777, this

will not cause the Department to exceed the number of frocked officers authorized; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1994. A communication from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Removal of Transferred OTS Regulations Regarding Lending and Investment; and Conforming Amendments to Other Regulation” (RIN3064-AE22) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 12, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1995. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Revisions to the Filing Process for Commission Forms” (RIN1902-AF58) (Docket No. RM19-12-000) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 15, 2019; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1996. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act: 2018 Report to Congress”; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1997. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the hurricane storm surge damage risk reduction and ecosystem restoration in Calcasieu, Cameron, and Vermillion Parishes in southwest Louisiana; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1998. A communication from the Deputy Assistant General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Final Priorities, Requirements, Definitions, and Selection Criteria—Expanding Opportunity Through Quality Charter Schools Program; Grants to Charter School Developers for the Opening of New Charter Schools and for the Republication and Expansion of High-Quality Charter Schools” (RIN1855-AA14) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 12, 2019; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1999. A communication from the Deputy Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Office of Postsecondary Education, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Program Integrity: Gainful Employment” (RIN1840-AD31) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 12, 2019; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2000. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “New Animal Drugs; Updating Tolerances for Residues of New Animal Drugs in Food” (RIN1910-AG17) (Docket No. FDA-2012-N-1067) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 15, 2019; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2001. A communication from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for the Department's 2017 FAIR Act Inventory of Inherently Governmental Activities and Inventory of Commercial Activities; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2002. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report

on D.C. Act 23-70, “Fair Elections Temporary Amendment Act of 2019”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2003. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 23-71, “Adams Morgan Business Improvement District Temporary Amendment Act of 2019”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2004. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 23-73, “Florida Avenue Multimodal Project Completion Temporary Amendment Act of 2019”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2005. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 23-74, “Fiscal Year 2019 Revised Local Budget Temporary Adjustment Act of 2019”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2006. A communication from the Acting Chief Privacy Officer, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Department of Homeland Security Privacy Office’s Fiscal Year 2019 Semiannual Report to Congress”; to the Committees on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; Select Committee on Intelligence; and the Judiciary.

EC-2007. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the activities of the Department of Justice to investigate and prosecute unsolved civil rights-era homicides; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2008. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Upper Mississippi River, Miles 483 to 484, Rock Island, IL” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0513)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 11, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2009. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Lake of the Ozarks, Sunrise Beach, MO” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0525)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 11, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2010. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Upper Mississippi River, Chester, IL, Thebes, IL” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0416)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 11, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2011. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; New Jersey Intracoastal Waterway, Atlantic City, NJ” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0537)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 11, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2012. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled

“Safety Zone; Fireworks Display, Delaware River, Chester, PA” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0403)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 11, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2013. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Fireworks Display, Delaware River, Philadelphia, PA” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0338)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 11, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2014. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Vallejo Independence Day Fireworks Display; Mare Island Strait, Vallejo, CA” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0379)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 11, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2015. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; City of Benicia Fourth of July Fireworks Display, Carquinez Strait, Benicia, CA” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0393)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 11, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2016. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Redwood City Independence Day Fireworks Display; Port of Redwood City, Redwood City, CA” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0467)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 11, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2017. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Newport 4th of July Fireworks, Yaquina Bay, Newport, OR” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0520)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 11, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2018. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “San Francisco Waterfront Celebration Fireworks Display; San Francisco Bay, San Francisco, CA” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0492)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 11, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2019. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone, Fourth of July Fireworks Patriots Point, Charleston, SC” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0372)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 11, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2020. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone, City of North Charleston Fireworks, North Charleston, SC” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0371)) received

in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 11, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2021. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Columbia River, Fireworks Kennewick, WA” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0323)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 11, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2022. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Columbia River, Fireworks Umatilla, OR” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0324)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 11, 2019; 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-117. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Maine urging the President of the United States and the United States Congress to enact legislation to allow the importation of safe, affordable prescription medications from Canada and other Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development nations; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

HOUSE PAPER NO. 1184

Whereas, Maine residents have a high median age and a low median income and are especially vulnerable to high prescription drug costs; and

Whereas, in Canada, within walking distance of Maine’s border, the same medications used by Maine residents, manufactured by the same companies in the same factories, are available for a fraction of the price charged in the United States; and

Whereas, Maine has previously allowed the personal importation of safe prescription medications, which saved residents and businesses as much as half the cost of their medications, significantly decreasing their health care and insurance costs; and

Whereas, Maine’s ability to import such medications has since been blocked by federal law, thus inserting the Federal Government between Maine people and potentially lifesaving medications while also preventing free-market competition from working to benefit consumers; and

Whereas, in 2014, Americans spent \$1,112 per person on prescription drugs while Canadians spent \$772 and Danes spent \$325, and nearly one in three Americans have been unable to afford the medicine they were prescribed at some point in their lives; and

Whereas, multiple members of Congress from both major political parties, including Maine’s delegation, have introduced legislation to allow wholesalers, pharmacies and individuals to import qualifying prescription drugs from licensed sellers in Canada and other member nations of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, using standards for the approval and sale of such medications comparable to those in the United States, that are purchased from an entity certified by the United States Food and Drug Administration and that have the same active ingredient, strength and route of administration as drugs approved in the United States; and