

VOTE EXPLANATION

● Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, unfortunately I was unable to attend the rollcall vote on the nomination of Clifton L. Corker to be a judge for the Eastern District of Tennessee. Had I been able to attend, I would have opposed his nomination.

Mr. President, unfortunately I was unable to attend the rollcall vote on the nomination of Lynda Blanchard to be United States Ambassador to the Republic of Slovenia. Had I been able to attend, I would have opposed her nomination.

Mr. President, unfortunately I was unable to attend the rollcall vote on the nomination of Donald R. Tapia to be United States Ambassador to Jamaica. Had I been able to attend, I would have opposed his nomination.●

(At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

VOTE EXPLANATION

● Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I had expected to be able to vote on the confirmations of Mr. Clifton Corker to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee, Ms. Lynda Blanchard to be Ambassador to the Republic of Slovenia, and Mr. Donald R. Tapia to be Ambassador to Jamaica. Instead, I am in Nevada for a funeral.

On the question of the confirmation of Mr. Clifton Corker to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee, I would have voted no.

On the question of the confirmation of Ms. Lynda Blanchard to be Ambassador to the Republic of Slovenia, I would have voted no.

On the question of the confirmation of Mr. Donald R. Tapia to be Ambassador to Jamaica, I would have voted yes.

Thank you.●

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARKANSAS BROADCASTERS ASSOCIATION

● Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate the Arkansas Broadcasters Association, ABA, on its 70th anniversary and celebrate the organization's decades of service to radio and television broadcasters in my State.

Established in 1949, the Arkansas Broadcasters formed to help broadcast organizations by educating its members about opportunities available through free, over-the-air broadcast operations and provide technical support, regulatory expertise, and advocacy coordination. The trade association's support and the services associated with it have no doubt been a tremendous asset to broadcasters across the State. Today, the ABA highlights its mission to help members in "Broad-

casting Naturally," which aptly distills the organization's mantra in simple, clever terms.

Arkansas' radio and television broadcast outlets provide vital information and quality programming to communities across our State. They educate, inform, entertain, and communicate with Arkansans in a variety of ways. When we turn on our televisions or radios and perhaps just as much these days by opening our smartphones and tablets or powering on our computers, we have come to expect the content we are looking for will be readily available and accessible.

We are able to find what we are looking for on TV or radio or their technology-enabled apps and online platforms because of the hard work that broadcasters do to ensure their product is meeting the demands and desires of consumers. I believe these broadcasters will be the first people to tell you that the Arkansas Broadcasters Association has played an integral role in their ability to provide that service, adapt to changing technology, and better understand the market they operate in.

It has been a pleasure to work alongside the ABA on legislative efforts that help the organization and its members continue to do the job they want to do as well as they can. I have been a supporter of legislation the broadcasters have advocated for, including the Local Radio Freedom Act, and I was especially honored when the group named me its Arkansan of the Year in 2017 for my work to support the association and its members.

Congratulations to the Arkansas Broadcasters Association and all of its members on reaching the tremendous milestone of seven decades working on behalf of their industry. I applaud them and am confident the ABA will enjoy many more years of success on behalf of the Natural State's television and radio broadcasters.●

TRIBUTE TO MIRIAM HALEY

● Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week I have the distinct honor of recognizing Miriam Haley of Silver Bow County for her contribution to the Butte veteran community.

Mrs. Haley, a quilter for over two decades, recently chaired a patriotic quilt show during Butte's Miners' Union Day celebration. The goal of this show was to create quilts for veterans moving into the newly built Southwest Montana Regional Veterans Home. Mrs. Haley ensured these quilts were designed to serve the Butte veterans in their day-to-day needs, whether they be resting or sitting with visitors. Originally, Mrs. Haley had hoped to collect 65 quilts for the veterans, but the show collected double that number. The 130 quilts spread out in proud display for the show acted as a tangible expression of Montana's ability to go above and beyond for its veteran community.

I wish to congratulate Mrs. Haley on her quilt show's success. Her actions

reflect the deep devotion to patriotism ingrained in all Montanans.●

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL DOUGLAS B. GUTTORMSEN

● Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, today, I would like to recognize COL Douglas B. Guttormsen on the occasion of his retirement from the Kansas City District Commander for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He has diligently served in this role for 3 years.

After earning degrees from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, the University of Missouri at Rolla, the National Defense University, and the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Colonel Guttormsen went on to lead engineering battalions across the United States and around the world. In addition to these assignments, he served in combat operations in Iraq and the Republic of Korea.

As commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Kansas City District, Colonel Guttormsen has overseen many military and civil works projects throughout the district. From directing construction projects at the region's military installations to ensuring the levees and dams are structurally sound, Colonel Guttormsen has demonstrated able and consistent leadership.

Although his resume boasts many accomplishments, Colonel Guttormsen's work leading the emergency operations center, which plays a vital role in responding to natural disasters whenever and wherever they may occur, is most impressive.

This spring, when facing extensive rainfall and severe flooding, he and the entire Kansas City District staff worked around the clock to respond to levee breaches and assist affected communities. Colonel Guttormsen also participated in the Missouri River Flood Forum that Congressman STEVE WATKINS and I hosted in May, where we saw the extensive flooding at the 4-State Lookout Point in Kansas and then spoke alongside the Department of Agriculture and answered questions from community members.

Colonel Guttormsen is a true professional and has exhibited remarkable leadership during his time as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Kansas City District commander. I trust my fellow members will join me in congratulating him and wishing him well in the days to come.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:25 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 joint resolutions, without amendment:

S.J. Res. 36. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed transfer to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Kingdom of Spain, and the

Italian Republic of certain defense articles and services.

S.J. Res. 37. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed export to the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the Republic of France of certain defense articles and services.

S.J. Res. 38. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed export to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland of certain defense articles and services.

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

H.R. 736. An act to require the Director of the Government Publishing Office to establish and maintain an online portal accessible to the public that allows the public to obtain electronic copies of all congressionally mandated reports in one place, and for other purposes.

H.R. 748. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on high cost employer-sponsored health coverage.

H.R. 1250. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 11158 Highway 146 North in Hardin, Texas, as the "Lucas Lowe Memorial Post Office".

H.R. 1526. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 200 Israel Road Southeast in Tumwater, Washington, as the "Eva G. Hewitt Post Office".

H.R. 1844. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 66 Grove Court in Elgin, Illinois, as the "Corporal Alex Martinez Memorial Post Office Building".

H.R. 1847. An act to require congressional notification for certain changes in status of inspectors general, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2325. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 Calle Alondra in San Juan, Puerto Rico, as the "65th Infantry Regiment Post Office Building".

H.R. 3305. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2509 George Mason Drive in Virginia Beach, Virginia, as the "Ryan Keith Cox Post Office Building".

H.R. 3494. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2018, 2019, and 2020 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes.

At 1:52 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, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 582. An act to provide for increases in the Federal minimum wage, 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. 1250. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 11158 Highway 146 North in Hardin, Texas, as the "Lucas Lowe Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 1526. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 200 Israel Road Southeast in Tumwater, Washington, as the "Eva G. Hewitt Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 1844. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 66 Grove Court in Elgin, Illinois, as the "Corporal Alex Martinez Memorial Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

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H.R. 3494. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2018, 2019, and 2020 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes; to the Select Committee on Intelligence.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 736. An act to require the Director of the Government Publishing Office to establish and maintain an online portal accessible to the public that allows the public to obtain electronic copies of all congressionally mandated reports in one place, and for other purposes.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

H.R. 582. An act to provide for increases in the Federal minimum wage, and for other purposes.

H.R. 748. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on high cost employer-sponsored health coverage.

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-2023. A communication from the Director of the Regulations Management Division, Rural Development, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Single Family Housing Direct and Guaranteed Loan Programs" (RIN0575-AD10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 17, 2019; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2024. A communication from the Director of the Regulations Management Division,

Rural Development, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Streamlining Electric Program Procedures" (RIN0572-AC40) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 17, 2019; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2025. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Sustainment), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report to Congress on Distribution of Department of Defense Fiscal Year 2018 Purchases From Foreign Entities"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2026. A communication from the Acting Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Vice Admiral Raquel C. Bono, United States Navy, and her advancement to the grade of vice admiral on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2027. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, three (3) reports relative to vacancies in the Department of the Treasury, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 17, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2028. A communication from the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to Prohibitions and Restrictions on Proprietary Trading and Certain Interests In, and Relationships With, Hedge Funds and Private Equity Funds" (RIN3235-AM43) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 16, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2029. 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 Implementation Plans; Colorado; Revisions to Regulation Number 4, New Wood Stoves and the Use of Certain Woodburning Appliances During High Pollution Days" (FRL No. 9995-93-Region 8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 16, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2030. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Indian Country: Air Quality Planning and Management; Federal Implementation Plan for the Kalispel Indian Community of the Kalispel Reservation, Washington; Re-designation to a PSD Class I Area" (FRL No. 9996-67-Region 10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 16, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2031. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Massachusetts: Final Approval of State Underground Storage Tank Program Revisions, Codification, and Incorporation by Reference" (FRL No. 9996-56-Region 1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 16, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2032. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Oregon: Final Approval of State Underground Storage Tank Program Revisions, Codification, and Incorporation by Reference" (FRL No. 9996-69-Region 10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 16, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.