

Yarmouth Elementary School was awarded a Blue Ribbon last year.

The mission of Yarmouth High School is to “empower all students to create fulfilling lives in a changing world.” Yarmouth High School is known for its extensive extra-curricular activities, which help forge a strong school community where students are connected and encouraged to pursue their interests. In addition to the arts and athletics, the school provides strong STEM education and world language courses. A comprehensive social studies curriculum includes a Public Policy Project in which students conduct individual research on a contemporary policy issue and present their recommendations to policy makers.

Yarmouth High School students are active in their community. The student senate allows them to be involved in decisions regarding school policies and programs. Students and parents join staff and administrators to interview candidates for positions at the school. Economics classes visit local businesses, environmental science classes work on community recycling and environmental stewardship projects, and world history coursework includes visiting local religious centers to increase understanding of various cultures.

The school strives to address the varying needs of individual students by bringing together students, teachers, administrators, counselors, and parents to provide a support network to help ensure that all students have the opportunity to succeed academically and socially.

This Blue Ribbon Award is a tribute not only to the students but also to the administrators, teachers, staff, and parents of Yarmouth High School. Together, they are accomplishing their mission to help students succeed in the classroom and as engaged citizens in their community and the world. They are making a difference in the lives of their students, helping them reach their full potential. I congratulate the entire community for this well-deserved recognition.

INDUCTION OF BROOKS & DUNN, RAY STEVENS, AND JERRY BRADLEY INTO THE COUNTRY MUSIC HALL OF FAME

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, in Nashville, we have a saying: it all starts with a song; but a song is just the beginning of the story.

This Sunday, Nashville's unbroken circle of elite artists, producers, entertainers, and musical masterminds will welcome four new members into the Country Music Hall of Fame.

Kix Brooks, Ronnie Dunn, Ray Stevens, and Jerry Bradley represent different sectors within the music industry, but they have all contributed to country music's evolution.

Kix Brooks and Ronnie Dunn—we know them as Brooks & Dunn—began

their careers as solo singer-songwriters but rocketed to stardom as a duo. Their fusion of classic rock composition and heartfelt songwriting spoke to country music fans craving an edge to the genre's traditional “Nashville Sound.” Nearly three decades after their first album dropped, their music still inspires emerging generations of fans.

From the beginning of his career, audiences and fellow artists alike were drawn to Ray Stevens' wonderful sense of humor, open heart, and commitment to entertainment as an art form. Known for his work in musical comedy, Ray stretched his legs and also made a name for himself as a studio musician, producer, songwriter, publisher, label owner, gospel singer, and country star.

Jerry Bradley, this year's final inductee, may not have invented country music, but no one on Music Row would deny the impact his work has had on generations of country stars. Jerry began his career in Nashville when the industry was on the brink of a major transformation. He drove the format into a new era defined by rebels, outlaws, and crossover superstars.

Today, I encourage my colleagues to take a moment to think of their favorite song and to remember how it made them feel the first time they heard it.

Kix, Ronnie, Ray, and Jerry are responsible for making millions of people feel that exact same way about their favorite song.

Their body of work represents more than just a series of accomplishments. It represents the best of Music City.

It is a gift.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO JOHN ROBERTSON

• Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize my friend John Robertson, a dedicated servant to the great people of West Virginia and native of our State capital, Charleston. After a 41-year career, John is retiring as the general manager of the Charleston Coliseum and Convention Center. Throughout these past four decades, John's leadership has transformed the facility, turning it into one of the cultural epicenters of our State.

In August of 1978, with a bachelor's degree from the University of Charleston under his belt, John began his career as an assistant manager for the Charleston Civic Center. At the time, the building was in its fledgling stages, having just broken ground the month before. For John, it was all hands on deck, and he hit the ground running, assisting in structural related duties, as well as the concession stand operations. Two years later, in August of 1980, the Charleston Civic Center was host to its first big concert—the band Queen.

With John's vision and leadership at the helm, this was just the beginning for the Charleston Civic Center. Soon

after the center was completed, the necessary renovations to turn the civic center into exhibit and meeting facilities were well under way. Through additional construction, two parking structures were placed contiguous to the Civic Center, creating an entirely different complex by 1983.

John's greatest of many accomplishments has come within the past few years, when approval of a city sales tax appropriated the proper funding to build the state-of-the-art facility that he had always dreamed of creating for his home town. John worked tirelessly with the mayor and Charleston city council, civic center board members, his staff, city planners, and consulting firms to complete the new Charleston Coliseum and Convention Center in the fall of 2018. This achievement is underscored by the fact that the center was continually operated during the entire construction period.

The Charleston Civic Center is held so fondly in the memories of so many West Virginians. For some, it is where they saw their favorite band perform live for the first time. For others, it was where they were able to bring home a State basketball title. From Garth Brooks concerts, to oldtime car shows, West Virginia versus Marshall basketball games or the West Virginia Book Festival, one thing has remained the same; that is, John's dedication to the citizens of Charleston through his tireless work to make sure that every detail of every event, no matter how big or small, held at the Charleston Civic Center was in place.

In retirement, John will now have more time to spend with his loving wife Kimberly, his daughters Bethany and Allyson, and his grandchildren Lucy and Henry, but the lasting effects of what he did for our State and the city of Charleston will continue on for generations to come. I wish John all the best as he continues to make a difference in his community with his unwavering diligence and kind soul. It is truly an honor to call you friend and fellow West Virginian.●

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.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:02 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 bill, without amendment:

S. 1196. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1715 Linnerud Drive in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin, as the “Fire Captain Cory Barr Post Office Building”.

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

H.R. 887. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 877 East 1200 South in Orem, Utah, as the “Jerry C. Washburn Post Office Building”.

H.R. 1252. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6531 Van Nuys Boulevard in Van Nuys, California, as the “Marilyn Monroe Post Office”.

H.R. 1253. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 13507 Van Nuys Boulevard in Pacoima, California, as the “Ritchie Valens Post Office Building”.

H.R. 1496. An act to amend the Act of August 25, 1958, commonly known as the “Former Presidents Act of 1958”, with respect to the monetary allowance payable to a former President, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1833. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 35 Tulip Avenue in Floral Park, New York, as the “Lieutenant Michael R. Davidson Post Office Building”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 1972. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1100 West Kent Avenue in Missoula, Montana, as “Jeannette Rankin Post Office Building”.

H.R. 2151. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7722 South Main Street in Pine Plains, New York, as the “Senior Chief Petty Officer Shannon M. Kent Post Office”.

H.R. 2451. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 575 Dexter Street in Central Falls, Rhode Island, as the “Elizabeth Buffum Chace Post Office”.

H.R. 3144. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 8520 Michigan Avenue in Whittier, California, as “Jose Ramos Post Office Building”.

H.R. 3152. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 456 North Meridian Street in Indianapolis, Indiana, as the “Richard G. Lugar Post Office”.

H.R. 3207. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 114 Mill Street in Hookstown, Pennsylvania, as the “Staff Sergeant Dylan Echlin Post Office Building”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 3314. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1750 McCulloch Boulevard North in Lake Havasu City, Arizona, as the “Lake Havasu City Combat Veterans Memorial Post Office Building”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 3329. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5186 Benito Street in Montclair, California, as the “Paul Eaton Post Office Building”.

H.R. 3889. An act to amend the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 1998 to make technical corrections; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 887. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 877 East 1200 South in Orem, Utah, as the “Jerry C. Washburn Post Office Building”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 1252. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6531 Van Nuys Boulevard in Van Nuys, California, as the “Marilyn Monroe Post Office”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

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H.R. 3889. An act to amend the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 1998 to make technical corrections; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following joint resolutions were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S.J. Res. 58. Joint resolution expressing support for freedom of conscience.

H.J. Res. 77. Joint resolution opposing the decision to end certain United States efforts to prevent Turkish military operations against Syrian Kurdish forces in Northeast Syria.

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

H.R. 2451. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located

at 575 Dexter Street in Central Falls, Rhode Island, as the “Elizabeth Buffum Chace Post Office”.

H.R. 3152. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 456 North Meridian Street in Indianapolis, Indiana, as the “Richard G. Lugar Post Office”.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 2644. A bill to impose sanctions with respect to Turkey, 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-2767. A communication from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Administration’s 2018 compensation program adjustments; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2768. 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 “Community Facilities Guaranteed Loan Program Guarantee Fee Rate, Annual Renewal Fee, Rural Area Definition, and Funding Priority for Fiscal Year 2020; and Water and Waste Disposal Programs Guaranteed Rural Area Definition and Funding Reservation for Fiscal Year 2020” received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 7, 2019; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2769. 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 “Section 538 Guaranteed Rural Rental Housing Program Notice of Funding Availability Elimination” (RIN0575-AD12) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 11, 2019; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2770. A communication from the Director of the Transparency and Accountability Reporting Division, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Nonprocurement Debarment and Suspension” (RIN0505-AA17) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 8, 2019; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2771. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Rules of Practice and Procedure Governing Formal Rulemaking Proceedings Instituted by the Secretary” (7 CFR Part 1) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 11, 2019; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2772. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Sustainment), transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual Selected Acquisition Reports (SARs) as of June 30, 2019 (OSS-2019-1092); to the Committees on Appropriations; and Armed Services.