

No one could have blamed Leeper if he's chosen to call it a career back in 2014, when he left the Kentucky General Assembly. However, he stepped up to lead McCracken County, returning much needed stability to an office that had seen turbulence during the previous administration.

"It was an opportunity for us to use some of the contacts I'd made in Frankfort and make things better for the community I grew up in," he said. "It was difficult at times, but we made some positive changes."

His proudest accomplishments as judge-executive, he told *The Sun* this week, were largely centered on infrastructure at the courthouse, jail, road department, and parks. They weren't glamorous, didn't beg for bold headlines or TV spots, but they needed doing.

Leeper's next words are true to his laid-back personality:

"Sometimes you don't get to cut ribbons and that's OK with me," he said. "I was proud this court took that same attitude and we were able to do things that needed to be done, even the kind that you don't cut ribbons on."

"We did it all without raising taxes and I think the county is in a better place from Judge Clymer and the new court."

Join us in congratulating Leeper on a distinguished successful career. Through his leadership, we have a great example for future leaders to emulate.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING DR. LOUIS BALART

• Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, today I want to speak as a Senator and a physician. Many know that I am a doctor, but specifically I am a hepatologist. I studied and treated those with liver disease. One of my colleagues, Dr. Louis Balart, just passed away; a friend who treated many patients with liver disease and made an incredible impact upon the lives of those whom he treated in the State of Louisiana and indeed across the Nation. Dr. Balart has a remarkable story. His family came to the United States from Cuba when he was a child. His father escaped Cuba after his family was sent ahead to the States by drinking blood that he had drained from his own body. He went to the Cuban captors and said, "I'm bleeding internally, I need to go to Miami to get treated." As a doctor himself, he knew that this would happen. With this remarkable story, he was able to rejoin his family that had moved to the United States, fleeing Castro's Cuba. As is the case of many such stories, the family succeeded tremendously, Louis Balart being among them. I mentioned before that he was an influential physician, but he was also a teacher with LSU School of Medicine in New Orleans and Tulane School of Medicine. He also headed the liver transplant unit at the Tulane Medical Center. He passed his gifts down and now his son, Carter Balart, is a gastroenterologist in Baton Rouge, whom I have had the pleasure of working on patients with. Today I honor Dr. Louis Balart, a father, husband, and physician who contributed greatly to his adopted country, the United States of America. He left it richer because of his presence.●

TRIBUTE TO BERNADINE REED

• Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Mr. President, today I want to recognize school bus driver Ms. Bernadine Reed, whose heroic actions ensured the safety of 40 schoolchildren last week in Darlington County, SC.

When a car ran into her stopped school bus on Tuesday, January 22 and caused the bus to catch on fire, Ms. Reed took action to make sure each and every child got off the bus safely and quickly. Because of her leadership and quick action, no one on the bus was injured, although the bus itself was consumed by flames minutes after the crash.

Although Ms. Reed had spent only 45 days on the job, the actions she took in this scary situation ensured the complete safety of all 40 of her schoolchildren. While she insists she is "just a mother," Ms. Reed certainly deserves the title of hero.

I would like to join in the rest of the Darlington community and the State in recognizing her act of heroism and thanking her for assuring the safety of her schoolchildren.●

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF GREENWOOD INDEX-JOURNAL

• Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Mr. President, today it is my pleasure to honor the Greenwood Index-Journal, a newspaper that is celebrating 100 years in the Greenwood, SC, community.

Founded in February 1919, the Index-Journal started as an office above a movie theatre and a printing press on a dirt floor. Although much has changed 100 years later, the Index-Journal's commitment to keeping the residents of Greenwood informed has not.

The Greenwood Index-Journal remains owned and operated by local residents themselves, with family members of the original co-owners still running the paper today. It is truly a paper run by the people, for the people. The Index-Journal has remained vigilant in its coverage of the Lakelands area, and continues to be a vital part of the Greenwood community.

I congratulate all of the Index-Journal leadership and staff for 100 years of committed and meaningful journalism and look forward to their presence in our State for years to come.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Ms. Ridgway, one of his secretaries.

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REPORT RELATIVE TO THE ISSUANCE OF AN EXECUTIVE ORDER WITH RESPECT TO VENEZUELA THAT TAKES ADDITIONAL STEPS WITH RESPECT TO THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13692 ON MARCH 8, 2015—PM 2

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report, which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) (50 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*), I hereby report that I have issued an Executive Order with respect to Venezuela that takes additional steps with respect to the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13692 of March 8, 2015, and relied upon for additional steps taken in Executive Order 13808 of August 24, 2017, Executive Order 13827 of March 19, 2018, Executive Order 13835 of May 21, 2018, and Executive Order 13850 of November 1, 2018.

The Executive Order I have issued accounts for the swearing in of a legitimate Interim President of Venezuela, and addresses actions by persons affiliated with the illegitimate Maduro regime, including human rights violations and abuses in response to anti-Maduro protests, arbitrary arrest and detention of anti-Maduro protestors, curtailment of press freedom, harassment of political opponents, and continued attempts to undermine the Interim President of Venezuela and undermine the Venezuelan National Assembly. The Executive Order amends subsection (d) of section 6 of Executive Order 13692, subsection (d) of section 3 of Executive Order 13808, subsection (d) of section 3 of Executive Order 13827, subsection (d) of section 3 of Executive Order 13835, and subsection (d) of section 6 of Executive Order 13850, to read:

"(d) the term "Government of Venezuela" includes the state and Government of Venezuela, any political subdivision, agency, or instrumentality thereof, including the Central Bank of Venezuela and Petroleos de Venezuela, S.A. (PDVSA), any person owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by the foregoing, and any person who has acted or purported to act directly or indirectly for or on behalf of, any of the foregoing, including as a member of the Maduro regime."

I am enclosing a copy of the Executive Order I have issued.

DONALD J. TRUMP.
THE WHITE HOUSE, January 25, 2019.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE
RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2019, the Secretary of the Senate, on January 25, 2019, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the House has agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 28) making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2019, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2019, the Secretary of the Senate, on January 25, 2019, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled joint resolution:

H.J. Res. 28. Joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2019, and for other purposes.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2019, the enrolled joint resolution was signed on January 25, 2019, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. McCONNELL).

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:02 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House disagrees to the amendment of the Senate to the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 31) making further continuing appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for fiscal year 2019, and for other purposes, agrees to the conference asked by the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon; and appoints Mrs. LOWEY, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. LEE of California, Messrs. CUELLAR, AGUILAR, Ms. GRANGER, Messrs. FLEISCHMANN, GRAVES of Georgia, and PALAZZO, be the managers of the conference on the part of the House.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE
CALENDAR

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

H.R. 648. An act making appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

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. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. CARPER, Mr. UDALL, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 232. A bill to amend the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 to require individuals

nominated or appointed to Senate-confirmed positions or to positions of a confidential or policymaking character to disclose certain types of contributions made or solicited by, or at the request of, the individuals; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself and Mr. CARPER):

S. 233. A bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Amendments of 1977 to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to report certain hiring to carry out the Safe Drinking Water Act; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. ENZI (for himself, Mr. BAR-RASSO, and Ms. ERNST):

S. 234. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require the disclosure of the annual percentage rates applicable to Federal student loans; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Ms. ERNST, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. JONES, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. INHOFE, and Mr. REED):

S. 235. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Education to award grants to establish teacher leader development programs; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 236. A bill to require a Special Counsel report, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 237. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to permit nurse practitioners and physician assistants to satisfy the documentation requirement under the Medicare program for coverage of certain shoes for individuals with diabetes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. GARDNER):

S. 238. A bill to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to monitor and combat anti-Semitism globally, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 239. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition of Christa McAuliffe; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. JONES):

S. 240. A bill to require the Internal Revenue Service to establish, incrementally over five years, a nationwide program to provide personal identification numbers to taxpayers to help prevent tax-related identity theft; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BENNET:

S. 241. A bill to provide for the designation of certain wilderness areas, recreation management areas, and conservation areas in the State of Colorado, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

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

S. 242. A bill to require the Secretary of Agriculture to release reversionary and reserved interests in certain land in the Coconino National Forest in the State of Arizona; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

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

S. 243. A bill to authorize, direct, expedite, and facilitate a land exchange in Bullhead

City, Arizona, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. McSALLY:

S. 244. A bill to provide for the unencumbering of title to non-Federal land owned by Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Florida, for purposes of economic development by conveyance of the Federal reversionary interest to the University; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BURR (for himself and Mr. WARNER):

S. 245. A bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System; to the Select Committee on Intelligence.

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. HARRIS, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. COONS, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. CARPER, Mr. UDALL, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. REED, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BROWN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 246. A bill to block the implementation of certain presidential actions that restrict individuals from certain countries from entering the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KAINE (for himself and Mr. WARNER):

S. 247. A bill to designate additions to the Rough Mountain Wilderness and the Rich Hole Wilderness of the George Washington National Forest, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. TILLIS:

S. 248. A bill to ensure that the Secretary of the Interior collaborates fully with State and local authorities and certain nonprofit entities in managing the Corolla Wild Horse population on Federal land; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND
SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. CARPER, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. SMITH, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. DURBIN, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. Res. 32. A resolution recognizing January 27, 2019, as the anniversary of the first refugee and Muslim ban, and urging the President to demonstrate true leadership on refugee resettlement; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TOOMEY (for himself, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. CASEY):

S. Res. 33. A resolution supporting the contributions of Catholic schools; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.