

mastered glider-use techniques and was deployed in France on December 24. He first went to Camp Mourmelon, followed by Charleville-Mézières, where his division was attached to George Patton's U.S. Third Army. There, he was among those ordered to defend a 30-mile defensive position along the Meuse River whose mission was to prevent the German advance in the Belgian Ardennes area.

On January 5, 1945, Private First Class Aas crossed the Belgian border and settled in a wooded area near Bastogne. Combat ensued 2 days later as the Battle of the Bulge was raging. The fighting was so intense the area became forever known as Dead Man's Ridge. As he and his unit continued to advance toward Luxembourg, they pushed enemy lines back towards the Siegfried Line.

In February, after the battle had ended and after weeks of combat in exceptionally harsh conditions, he returned to France to Camp Châlons-sur-Marne. He was reassigned to the 194th Glider Infantry after his regiment disbanded because of heavy casualties. Private First Class Aas helped prepare for the airborne operation Varsity. On March 24, he left Coulommiers and landed in Germany near Wesel to help capture Rhine bridges and secure towns to protect Allied ground forces. The following day he was wounded by shrapnel and was hospitalized in Belgium and then Paris, where he spent several weeks recovering.

Private First Class Aas returned to North Dakota following the war, earned his law degree from the University of North Dakota, and served in the State legislature for four sessions. To this day, he remains a community leader in Minot. He is one of the best examples of the thousands of World War II veterans we proudly call "the greatest generation."

For his valorous conduct in action, Mr. Aas has received prestigious distinctions, including the Purple Heart Medal, the Bronze Star Medal for heroic and meritorious service in Belgium, as well as the Luxembourg Medal of Honor and the honorific diploma of Citizen of Utah Beach—Sainte-Marie-du-Mont / Citoyen d'Utah Beach—Sainte-Marie-du-Mont. It was my honor in October 2017 to join French Consul General Lacroix, who made a special trip to Minot to present France's highest military recognition, the Legion of Honor, to Mr. Aas, who was then 96 years old.

Mr. President, as we remember this 75th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge, let us once again remember and honor the heroism and sacrifices of our American soldiers, who paved the way for victory in World War II and for our freedom today.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

90TH ANNIVERSARY OF HAWAIIAN AIRLINES

- Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, 90 years ago, Inter-Island Airways launched the first scheduled commercial passenger air service in Hawaii. Now known as Hawaiian Airlines, it is our State's largest and longest serving airline. Its fleet of 67 aircrafts flies between our islands and connects Hawaii to the mainland and around the world.

As a State comprised of islands, safe, reliable air service is critical to the movement of people and goods. Whether it is transporting people and cargo for leisure, medical appointments, business, cultural and sports events or carrying fresh produce, equipment, or other supplies, Hawaiian has and will continue to be a major part of our highways in the sky.

From its modest beginnings—a \$3-per-person sightseeing tour on a five-passenger plane—Hawaiian transported 11.8 million passengers and 92,000 tons of cargo last year alone. Today, Hawaiian is one of the largest employers in the State, with more than 7,300 employees across its network, including some 6,600 who live in Hawaii.

Its impact is felt beyond jobs. Every year, Hawaiian and its employees partner with and help support hundreds of nonprofit organizations. As one example, Hawaiian leads a mentorship program that promotes aviation careers and provides students with hands-on learning about all aspects of the industry.

I am particularly proud of the steps Hawaiian has taken to adopt eco-friendlier practices throughout its operations to improve fuel efficiency, reduce carbon emissions, and cut waste. In 2018, despite continuing to grow, Hawaiian lowered annual jet fuel burn by 7 million gallons and reduced annual carbon output by 86,300 metric tons. It is also contributing toward climate research by collecting air samples over the Pacific Ocean. The data is used as part of an international effort to measure climate change and air quality.

On behalf of the Hawaii congressional delegation, I wish to congratulate Hawaiian Airlines on its 90th anniversary and wish them continued success in serving the travel needs of our residents and introducing Hawaii to the world.●

TRIBUTE TO WALTER GRAFF

- Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I rise today to salute Walter Graff for his many years of dedicated service and forward-looking leadership at the Appalachian Mountain Club, AMC. Walter will soon retire from his role as senior vice president, the capstone to a career at AMC that began 45 years ago as a program manager in the mountains of northern New Hampshire. He leaves a legacy worthy of our praise and our gratitude.

The Appalachian Mountain Club is a nearly century-and-a-half old organization with a mission of connecting people to the outdoors. Its staff and many supporters not only encourage people to explore the natural world through activities like hiking, paddling, cycling, and skiing. They are also at the forefront of conservation efforts that seek to protect our forests, mountains, rivers, and trails for future generations to enjoy and cherish.

When Walter Graff was hired by the AMC in July of 1974, he spent his first months on the job screening environmental films for guests at what was then called Pinkham Notch Camp. The AMC was a much smaller organization back then with a few professional positions in New Hampshire and administrative services in Boston. But Walter had big dreams and an ambitious vision for the organization. He approached the Pinkham hutmaster at the end of the summer with the hope of developing a workshop program. He got signoff, as well as an excuse to venture outdoors. What began as a couple classes on topics like equipment maintenance and snowshoeing has since blossomed into one of the largest outdoor education programs in New England.

Walter has held many titles within AMC since that summer 45 years ago. His colleagues note that his leadership has touched every facet of AMC's mission. As director of education, he was influential in launching the group's renowned outdoor skills and leadership training program. As head of the AMC's Maine Woods Initiative, he was responsible for developing a program that promotes outdoor recreation, protects natural resources, encourages responsible forestry and deepens community partnerships. To date, the program is responsible for purchasing and permanently conserving 70,000 acres of forestland and creating over 120 miles of recreational trails.

As he nears his retirement, Walter is fond of looking to the past to see how much AMC has grown and how accessible our mountains, rivers, and lakes are to people across the region. He drives through the White Mountains and sees once-empty parking lots now full of people exploring the richness of the natural world. Yet Walter is also looking to the future as he approaches his final day as an AMC employee. He knows he will remain connected to the outdoors and will continue caring for the planet.

On behalf of the people of New Hampshire, I ask my colleagues and all Americans to join me in thanking Walter Graff for his years of service and wishing him all the best in the years ahead.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

LEGISLATION AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS TO IMPLEMENT THE UNITED STATES-MEXICO-CANADA AGREEMENT, RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT OF THE SENATE ON DECEMBER 13, 2019—PM 39

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with accompanying reports and papers; which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit legislation and supporting documents to implement the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (the “Agreement”). The Agreement is an important part of my Administration’s efforts to rebalance trade in North America and to modernize our trade relationship with Mexico and Canada. The Agreement will create significant new opportunities for American workers, farmers, ranchers, and businesses by opening markets in Canada and Mexico and eliminating barriers to United States goods, services, and investment.

Approving this Agreement is in our national interest. I look forward to the Congress expeditiously approving the legislation.

DONALD J. TRUMP.
THE WHITE HOUSE, December 13, 2019.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:03 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 bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3. An act to establish a fair price negotiation program, protect the Medicare program from excessive price increases, and establish an out-of-pocket maximum for Medicare part D enrollees, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that effective December 16, 2019, pursuant to section 2 of the Civil Rights Commission Amendments Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 1975), and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, and upon recommendation of the Minority Leader, the Speaker reappoints the following individual on the part of the House of Representatives to the Commission on Civil Rights for a term expiring December 15, 2025: Mr. Peter N. Kirsanow of Cleveland, Ohio.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment:

S. 2513. A bill to provide for joint reports by relevant Federal agencies to Congress regarding incidents of terrorism, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 116-175).

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Af-

fairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

H.R. 135. A bill to amend the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 to strengthen Federal antidiscrimination laws enforced by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and expand accountability within the Federal Government, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 116-176).

EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The following executive report of a nomination was submitted:

By Mr. BLUNT for the Committee on Rules and Administration.

*J. Brett Blanton, of Virginia, to be Architect of the Capitol for the term of ten years.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee’s commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

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. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. MCCONNELL) (by request):

S. 3052. A bill to implement the Agreement between the United States of America, the United Mexican States, and Canada attached as an Annex to the Protocol Replacing the North American Free Trade Agreement; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ENZI (for himself and Mr. TESTER):

S. 3053. A bill to provide for the regulation, inspection, and labeling of food produced using animal cell culture technology, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. REED, and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 3054. A bill to establish that a State-based education loan program is excluded from certain requirements relating to a preferred lender arrangement; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. REED):

S. 3055. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to permit a Federal student loan borrower to elect to terminate repayment pursuant to income-based repayment and repay such loan under any other repayment plan for which the borrower is otherwise eligible; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. REED, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. 3056. A bill to designate as wilderness certain Federal portions of the red rock canyons of the Colorado Plateau and the Great Basin Deserts in the State of Utah for the benefit of present and future generations of people in the United States; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

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

S. 3057. A bill to modernize the Older Americans Act of 1965, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 3058. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to establish fair and consistent eligibility requirements for graduate medical schools operating outside the United States and Canada; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN:

S. 3059. A bill to amend the Fair Housing Act to establish that certain conduct, in or around a dwelling, shall be considered to be severe or pervasive for purposes of determining whether a certain type of sexual harassment has occurred under that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. MCSALLY:

S. 3060. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to establish a pilot program for commercial recreation concessions on certain land managed by the Bureau of Land Management; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN:

S. 3061. A bill to provide protection for survivors of domestic violence or sexual assault under the Fair Housing Act; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 296

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 296, a bill to amend XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure more timely access to home health services for Medicare beneficiaries under the Medicare program.

S. 340

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 340, a bill to promote competition in the market for drugs and biological products by facilitating the timely entry of lower-cost generic and biosimilar versions of those drugs and biological products.

S. 518

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 518, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage of certain lymphedema compression treatment items as items of durable medical equipment.

S. 633

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 633, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the members of the Women’s Army Corps who were assigned to the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, known as the “Six Triple Eight”.

S. 684

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 684, a bill to amend the Internal