

They are amazing people, what they do to us personally—they take care of us. They make sure we are taken care of. If we have family issues, they understand and do everything they can to help.

Doug recently said:

We're a family-oriented business. The families of the people who work for us are very important. The kids of our employees have grown up in the business.

Both of their parents have been together for 50 years, and Doug and April have been together 25. These are really important milestones, really important examples.

As Doug said, "We really believe that's one of the big problems with America right now—families not staying together. We live our values."

The Moores are also heavily involved in the community. April was a Girl Scout leader and a PTA member. Doug was the president of the community council, a volunteer emergency medical technician, a volunteer firefighter. They help on Thanksgiving with the food bank, as well as the local gun club and firing range. They give where they can. They give back to the community. They are integrated in the community.

Last summer, a series of wildfires ravaged through Southcentral Alaska. The most destructive of these fires was the 3,700-acre McKinley fire. It destroyed 51 homes, 3 businesses, and 84 outbuildings. Thank God, nobody in Alaska was killed.

As one of the largest hardware stores servicing that region where that fire was, Moores' Hardware and Building Supply stepped up, donating time, equipment, and giving to people who needed help, people who needed to rebuild.

We often talk about how small businesses are the backbone of our country's economy, but here is the thing. They are also the backbone of our communities.

In small towns throughout America or throughout Alaska, businesses are not just places for people to go and shop for things. They can also be places where people get together, where people give to one another.

In fact, they are often the glue that holds communities together. This is what Moores' Hardware and Building Supply is. I have had the honor of going there, shopping there, seeing this great store and community in action.

Now, one of the Moores' sons, Justin, is in training to take over the store when Doug and April finally retire. It will then be an official third-generation small business in the great State of Alaska. What a great accomplishment that will be.

Justin is committed, just like Doug and April, to their employees and their communities. So I want to thank the Moores. In fact, I want to thank all small business owners across Alaska and across the country for your hard work.

Doug and April, thank you not just for that hard work but for all you are doing for the community of Talkeetna

and the surrounding areas and for the great State of Alaska.

Congratulations on being our first Alaskan of the Week of 2020.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

RECESS SUBJECT TO THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 3:32 p.m., recessed subject to the call of the Chair and reassembled at 5:28 p.m., when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. SULLIVAN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following nominations: Executive Calendar Nos. 541, 542 and 552.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nominations of Cynthia L. Attwood, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission for a term expiring April 27, 2025 (Reappointment); Amanda Wood Laihow, of Maine, to be a Member of Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission for the remainder of a term expiring April 27, 2023; and Crosby Kemper III, of Missouri, to be Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services for a term of four years, en bloc.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations of Attwood, Laihow, and Kemper, en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO CARTER HENDRICKS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, as my good friend Carter Hendricks prepares to end his service as the mayor of Hopkinsville, he certainly has a lot to show for his years of leadership in Southwestern Kentucky. He has helped the region take full advantage of its great potential, and I know I join his friends and constituents in expressing our gratitude. Today, I would like to honor this remarkable Kentuckian and wish him well as he embarks on his next chapter.

When he was first elected in 2014, Carter made headlines for becoming the second youngest mayor in Hopkinsville's two centuries of history. The local newspaper, the highly regarded Kentucky New Era, also reported that Carter was only the city's second Republican mayor. He quickly mobilized the city's administration with a bold strategy to make Hopkinsville an attractive destination for economic development. His flagship initiative, called "Hoptown WINS," was a nearly \$15 million capital campaign involving downtown improvements, as well as new parks, a sports complex, and a visitors center. These state-of-the-art amenities are meant to help draw investment and good jobs into Hopkinsville and the surrounding areas. Now halfway through his second term, Carter and his constituents are beginning to see the positive results of his leadership. His vision of Hopkinsville's bright future is helping to create the conditions for growth and prosperity.

Carter had been encouraging economic growth in the region long before he first stepped foot into the mayor's office. For nearly a decade, Carter worked in senior positions at the Christian County Chamber of Commerce, including 4 years as its president and CEO. With local leaders and the business community, he helped develop creative solutions to the county's challenges.

I have had the great privilege to work with Carter in both of these capacities. When I heard the area's lack of access to a Federal interstate was obstructing business investment, Carter and I teamed up to find a solution. In 2017, Senator RAND PAUL and I secured the designation of a nearby section of the Edward T. Breathitt Pennyrite Parkway as Interstate 169. When President Trump signed our provision into law, he helped connect Christian County to the Federal interstate system and bolstered Carter's efforts to encourage growth in the area.

We also partnered to support the brave men and women stationed at Fort Campbell in Christian County. The installation is part of Kentucky's critical role in our national defense structure, and the local community takes seriously its responsibility to support Fort Campbell's mission and the servicemembers stationed there. During his time with the chamber, Carter led the business community's efforts to be strong and supportive neighbors. Together, we wanted to welcome

all members of the military and their families to Kentucky, make them feel at home, and help them prosper in this community.

Carter said he didn't take the decision to leave the mayor's office lightly. When the chance to lead the South Western Kentucky Economic Development Council became available, however, he leapt at the opportunity. Formed in 2012, the organization represents Christian, Todd, and Trigg Counties and engages with job creators looking for their new home. Carter admits the job will present new challenges, but I am confident he will bring the same knowledge, determination, and high energy that has led to so much success.

Although the city will certainly miss Carter's daily leadership, he said, "I'm not leaving the team—if anything I'm just in a slightly different position." At the economic development council, Carter will continue supporting the city's efforts and continue working toward the same goal. He is certainly lucky to have a proud cheering section in his wife Faye and their two children. I would like to thank Carter for his constant dedication to creating opportunities for families in West Kentucky and to congratulate him on his great achievements. I hope my Senate colleagues will join me in commending this talented Kentuckian for his leadership and service and in extending our best wishes as he steps into a new role.

Mr. President, the Kentucky New Era in Hopkinsville recently published a profile of Carter's distinguished service. I ask unanimous consent that the article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Kentucky New Era, Jan. 7, 2020]

HENDRICKS SHARES WHY HE PURSUED
POSITION WITH EDC
(By Zirconia Alleyne)

Hopkinsville Mayor Carter Hendricks announced Monday afternoon that he will resign in order to accept the executive director position with the South Western Kentucky Economic Development Council.

His official resignation letter and date were not released as of press time Monday.

Hendricks, who is in his second term as mayor, called a meeting with city staff at the same time the SWKEDC met across town Monday to determine he was the best candidate for the role left vacant in November when Mark Lindsey resigned.

The Kentucky New Era broke the news shortly after the EDC came out of closed session.

Hendricks had just wrapped his meeting with staff telling them he was a candidate and would accept the position if offered. He said he didn't know going into the meeting knowing that he was selected, although there had been chatter on social media throughout the weekend.

"I went out on a limb by having that meeting, knowing that I could have had egg on my face if it didn't go the way I was praying for it to go," he said. "But, that's the risk you take sometimes."

Why he applied?

Hendricks, who served as the executive director of the Christian County Chamber of

Commerce from 2010 to 2013, said he has always been interested in economic development and thought about pursuing the position with the regional EDC in 2017 when Lindsey was ultimately named the director.

"There's been a couple other times I was interested in that position, but the timing never felt right," Hendricks said. "The reason I was willing to step forward now and show interest is because I have a passion for it, I believe I have a skillset for it and I know I have experience in it. It was inevitable that I would be looking for something different in the next two to two and a half years, and I cannot afford to wait until the next opportunity arises."

Hendricks said he expected Lindsey to be in the position for five to seven years like national trends show, and he hoped to apply once his second term in office was done.

However, when the opportunity arose again in November, Hendricks said he expressed interest. He went on to say he had no contact with the EDC board members after his interview in December, except the board chair to ask about the hiring process.

The South Western Kentucky Economic Development Council was formed in 2012 through a merger of the Todd County Industrial Foundation with the Christian County Economic Development Council, according to New Era archives. In May 2014, the Cadiz-Trigg County Economic Development Commission joined forces with the two.

The executive director works to recruit businesses and industry to the tri-county region. Hendricks said the new job will be a challenge, but he's up for it.

"A lot of my dad's family is from Trigg County . . . and I've got great working relationships with the mayors and judge executives, and I've worked hard to maintain those relationships," Hendricks said. "I'm still going to have to learn more about Todd County and Trigg County, but I'm eager to do that."

STEPS TO APPOINTING A NEW MAYOR

According to KRS 83A.040, Hendricks must submit a formal resignation letter with his final date before the process to appoint an interim mayor can begin.

The statute explains that his resignation shall be effective at the next regular or special meeting of city council after the date specified in his letter of resignation. City council will then have 30 days to fill the vacancy with an interim mayor.

The statute goes on to explain that the interim mayor can serve until the next succeeding annual election, at which time the vacancy will be filled by election for the remainder of the term. The next general election is in November.

The mayor's assistant, Idalia Luna, is leaving at the end of January for her new role with the city as executive director of the Human Rights Commission. The mayor said he didn't look for her replacement because the next mayor should choose the person for that role.

"I intentionally didn't fill that role until I knew how this would turn out," Hendricks said.

Of the empty mayor's office that will be left, Hendricks said the staff is equipped to keep the city afloat. "People like to believe that the mayor is the one running the city, but if you're doing your job correctly, the credit is to these city employees," he said.

"I care a lot about this team," he continued. "I spent five years with them and had a heart attack with them—and I don't say that lightly. This team rallied around me and they showed up—they showed up in the hospital, they sent cards and notes. They'll be my family no matter what role I'm in as long as I'm in this community. They're good people."

HENDRICKS' TIME IN OFFICE

Hendricks was elected for his first term as mayor of Hopkinsville in November 2014. According to New Era archives, Hendricks became only the second Republican mayor in the city's history. Herb Hays was the first when he was elected in 1985 and died in office in 1987.

Hendricks said he wouldn't trade his time as mayor for anything, but he acknowledged that it was a tough job.

When asked about the stress of being mayor, Hendricks said he believes a variety of things contributed to his heart attack on Christmas Eve 2016.

"When I first had the health scare, I was running on the greenway, so it's not that I wasn't a healthy person," he said. ". . . More than anything it was genetic. My dad passed away at 64 from heart disease and had his first heart attack at 46.

"Sure, I have to believe that some of the pressure and stress of this job contributed to (my heart attack)," he recalled. "At the time, we were really working on the WINS initiative to get it approved, and I'm a pretty Type A personality when I believe in something . . . those types of characteristics combined with genetics and too many Dr. Peppers contributed to a heart attack when I was 43."

Hendricks' Hoptown WINS initiative, an acronym for Wellness, Infrastructure and Neighborhood, was a major part of his first term. The \$14.8 million in capital projects came to fruition through a tax increase voted on by city council. The result? The construction of the Planters Bank-Jennie Stuart Health Sportsplex, a series of downtown improvements, extensions to the Hopkinsville Rail Trail greenway system, two neighborhood parks, the completion of the visitor's center on East Ninth Street and more sidewalks around town.

"Everything we did in the Hoptown WINS initiative had economic development in mind," he said. "If you look at what economic developers and site planners will tell you, there's about five things that are the most important criteria for communities to be successful. One of those is quality of place—walkability, performing arts facilities like the Alhambra theatre, youth activities . . . those types of things matter."

"You have to be a desirable community for industries to want to invest in you," he continued. "Those are the types of projects that industries and workers are looking for, so nearly everything we've done has been to try to position our self to take better advantage of economic development opportunities."

Hendricks said he had the support of his wife, Faye, and their two children, Chase and Lily, when he pursued the position. He also said he prayed.

"I know that sounds cliché, but as a result of prayer and speaking with the family, I decided to pursue this opportunity knowing that it wasn't an ideal time," he said. "There isn't an ideal timeline when you're serving in an elected position and thinking about what you're going to do next."

Hendricks said he has no plans to leave his hometown anytime soon and he doesn't plan to run for any other elected positions. For now, Hendricks said he hopes to make positive change in the community through his new role at the EDC.

"What I hope people will see after it's all said and done is . . . I'm not leaving the team—if anything I'm just in a slightly different position of the team," he said. "If you think I've been the quarterback, I'm now the wide receiver, and my job as this wide receiver is to go deep and score touchdowns and recruit business and industries that will help this community grow and provide more opportunities for families."

MONROE COUNTY BICENTENNIAL

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, at the beginning of a new year, most of us look ahead with plans, expectations, and resolutions. The residents of Monroe County in the Pennyroyal region of South Central Kentucky, however, are spending the first days of the new year looking back on their unique history. They are looking two centuries back, in fact, to the county's founding in 1820. I would like to join with these Kentuckians in kicking off a year of bicentennial celebrations of the county's blessings and its rich heritage.

At its founding, local leaders looked to Presidential leadership when selecting the name for the county and its seat. President James Monroe was honored with the county's name while his Vice President, Daniel Tompkins, was the inspiration for the county seat's name, Tompkinsville.

Early Monroe County residents took advantage of the area's fertile soil and its close proximity to the Cumberland and Barren Rivers. In this beautiful setting, they began developing deep agricultural roots with livestock and staple crops like tobacco and hemp.

Like many Kentucky counties, Monroe's early economic development was stunted during the Civil War. Many local residents joined the war effort, and support for the Union led to the establishment of Camp Anderson and the raising of the 9th Kentucky Infantry. Unfortunately, Monroe County's location on the Kentucky-Tennessee border also caused multiple invasions by both Union and Confederate forces throughout the war. During one of these raids, a Confederate unit captured Tompkinsville and burned much of the town, including the courthouse, causing lasting devastation.

Although the local economy was slow to rebound immediately after the war, the new century helped Monroe County get back on track. Since that time, families in the region have continued developing their rural traditions while making important investments into new local industries. A little over a decade ago, I was proud to partner with local officials in Monroe County to deliver Federal funding for a new water treatment facility, along with other upgrades. Together, we are helping to encourage new opportunities for economic growth and good jobs for Kentucky families.

In addition, I greatly enjoy working with a proud son of Tompkinsville, Congressman JAMES COMER, who is a strong champion for his hometown and all of the First District of Kentucky here in Washington.

The yearlong bicentennial celebration will feature a wide range of Monroe County's history, as well as some of its local specialties. From its famous barbecue to a Gospel music event, the festivities will showcase the many talents of Monroe County families. They will also pay tribute to local veterans, honoring the county's long and distinguished record of contributing to our Nation's defense.

In celebrating their wonderful history, these Kentuckians are also preparing to take advantage of their great potential ahead. With the principled leadership of Congressman COMER, State Representative Bart Rowland, County Judge/Executive Mitchell Page, and many other local officials, Monroe County is well-positioned for a bright future. It has been a privilege to help kick-off this bicentennial celebration, and I ask my Senate colleagues to join me in congratulating all the residents of Monroe County on this milestone. Together, we look forward to many more prosperous years to come.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA.

HON. JAMES E. RISCH,
*Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 20-06 concerning the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Singapore for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$2.750 billion. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

CHARLES W. HOOPER,
Lieutenant General, USA, Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 20-06

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Singapore.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment* \$1.625 billion.

Other \$1.125 billion.

Total \$2.750 billion.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Up to twelve (12) F-35B Short Take-Off and Vertical Landing (STOVL) Aircraft (Four (4)

F-35B STOVL Aircraft with the option to purchase an additional Eight (8) F-35B STOVL Aircraft).

Up to thirteen (13) Pratt and Whitney F135 Engines (includes 1 initial spare).

Non-MDE: Also included are Electronic Warfare Systems; Command, Control, Communication, Computers and Intelligence/Communication, Navigation and Identification (C4I/CNI) system; Autonomic Logistics Global Support System (ALGS); Autonomic Logistics Information System (ALIS); F-35 Training System; Weapons Employment Capability and other Subsystems, Features and Capabilities; F-35 unique infrared flares; reprogramming center access and F-35 Performance Based Logistics; software development/integration; aircraft transport from Ft. Worth, TX to the CONUS initial training base and tanker support (if necessary); spare and repair parts; support equipment, tools and test equipment; technical data and publications; personnel training and training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics support.

(iv) Military Department: Air Force (SN-D-SAE).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: January 9, 2020.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Singapore—F-35B Short Take-Off and Vertical Landing (STOVL)

The Government of Singapore has requested to buy up to twelve (12) F-35B Short Take-Off and Vertical Landing (STOVL) aircraft (four (4) F-35B STOVL aircraft with the option to purchase an additional eight (8) F-35B STOVL aircraft); and up to thirteen (13) Pratt and Whitney F135 Engines (includes 1 initial spare). Also included are Electronic Warfare Systems; Command, Control, Communication, Computers and Intelligence/Communication, Navigation and Identification (C4I/CNI) system; Autonomic Logistics Global Support System (ALGS); Autonomic Logistics Information System (ALIS); F-35 Training System; Weapons Employment Capability and other Subsystems, Features and Capabilities; F-35 unique infrared flares; reprogramming center access and F-35 Performance Based Logistics; software development/integration; aircraft transport from Ft. Worth, TX to the CONUS initial training base and tanker support (if necessary); spare and repair parts; support equipment, tools and test equipment; technical data and publications; personnel training and training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics support. The total estimated cost is \$2.750 billion.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States. Singapore is a strategic friend and Major Security Cooperation Partner and an important force for political stability and economic progress in the Asia Pacific region.

This proposed sale of F-35s will augment Singapore's operational aircraft inventory and enhance its air-to-air and air-to-ground self-defense capability, adding to an effective deterrence to defend its borders and contribute to coalition operations with other allied and partner forces. Singapore will have no difficulty absorbing these aircraft into its armed forces.