

families who share in their sacred sacrifice.

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I rise today, in honor of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. Every year, throughout the month of May, the people of the United States join together to pay tribute to the contributions and achievements of generations of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders, AAPI, who have enriched the history, culture, and traditions of this country.

Today, there are approximately 23,000,000 AAPIs in the United States, representing more than 45 distinct ethnic groups and speaking over 100 language dialects. As the fastest growing minority population, the AAPI community continues to have an increasing impact on our national discourse. There are now 20 AAPI members of Congress, and a record number of AAPIs are serving in State and Territorial legislatures across the Nation.

This year, as we celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month amid a pandemic, we recognize the over 2,000,000 AAPIS working on the frontlines as healthcare professionals, first responders, transit operators, and in supermarkets and other essential service industries. Every day, these heroic individuals risk their lives to protect the health and safety of Americans during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

We also reflect broadly on the achievements and contributions of the AAPI community in the areas of politics and government, education and the arts, music, writing and literature, sports, business, medicine, and law. We pay tribute to the leaders before us, who overcame great adversity and paved the way forward.

We honor great statesmen like Daniel Kahikina Akaka, the first person of Native Hawaiian ancestry to serve in the U.S. Senate. Throughout his nearly four decades in Congress, Senator Akaka worked to change the public's perception of the AAPI community and helped to preserve and restore Hawaiian language, culture, and traditions. Although he recently passed away, Senator Akaka's spirit as a true champion of aloha endures.

We also remember influential labor organizers like Larry Itliong, Peter Velasco, and Philip Vera Cruz, who in 1965, led the Filipino-American farmworkers to strike alongside Cesar Chavez, demanding better pay, benefits, and working conditions. The Delano Grape Strike was one of the most pivotal civil rights and labor movements in American history. It opened doors for immigrants and people of color and inspired countless others to stand together and demand their rights.

Around the time that the Filipino-American grape workers began their strike in 1965, Congress enacted the Im-

migration and Nationality Act, INA, also known as the Hart-Celler Act. This landmark legislation overturned discriminatory race- and nationality-based immigration policies that previously barred immigration from Asia. The INA established new policies based on reuniting families and attracting skilled professionals and helped refugees fleeing violence or unrest, notably those escaping war-torn Southeast Asia. By opening the United States to immigration from Asia, Africa, and Latin America, the INA's enduring legacy includes diversifying the demographic makeup of our country.

This month, I introduced a resolution in honor of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. While we commemorate the contributions of the AAPI community, this pandemic has tested the strength of our nation. Anti-Asian racism and attacks are on the rise, stoked by those in the highest levels of government. This recent surge in discrimination and hate crimes against the AAPI community demonstrates how much work must still be done to achieve full equality. As a country of immigrants, we must now, more than ever, embrace the rich diversity of our communities, and stand up for the civil rights and equal treatment of all Americans.

CONFIRMATIONS OF DAVID A. WRIGHT AND CHRISTOPHER T. HANSON

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, today, the Senate confirmed the nominations of David Wright and Christopher Hanson to serve as Commissioners on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, NRC. While I am pleased that these nominees will provide the NRC with a full Commission, I remain deeply concerned with Mr. Wright's history of strongly supporting efforts to move the Yucca Mountain repository forward and oppose his confirmation today.

Shortly after Mr. Wright joined the Commission in 2018, the State of Nevada called for Mr. Wright to recuse himself from matters pertaining to Yucca Mountain licensing. He refused. Mr. Wright is on the record calling for the "expeditious implementation of the Yucca Mountain program" and founded the Yucca Mountain Task Force. His refusal to recuse himself denies Nevada its right to an unbiased Commissioner on the NRC and furthers the distrust that plagues the Nation's management of nuclear waste.

More than 30 years ago, Nevada was thrown into the center of the nuclear waste debate, when Congress dismissed the siting process it established in the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 and named Yucca Mountain the sole nuclear waste repository for the Nation over the strong objections of Nevadans. The site is physically unsuitable and puts at risk the safety, security, and economic well-being of the State. The decision broke the trust of the Amer-

ican people in the government's ability to responsibly manage nuclear waste. The reappointment of Mr. Wright to the NRC does nothing to regain the trust of Nevadans or establish confidence in nuclear waste repository licensing processes.

Commissioners serving on the independent agency must be neutral and unbiased in order to ensure confidence in the guidance, regulations, and determinations issued by the NRC. Mr. Wright can make the decision to recuse himself from Yucca Mountain licensing matters, and it is my hope that he will chose to do so to bring integrity to the Commission and to restore the rights of the State of Nevada.

I also acknowledge the importance of Mr. Hanson being confirmed to the NRC today. He will help bring balance to the Commission with his decades of experience on nuclear energy and waste issues.

I will continue to work with my colleagues in the Senate to ensure Congress continues to utilize its authority to oversee the work of the Commission and hope all Commissioners will approach all matters, including those that pertain to Yucca Mountain licensing, without preexisting bias and conflicts of interest.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

NATIONAL DAY OF AWARENESS FOR MISSING AND MURDERED NATIVE WOMEN AND GIRLS

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today the Senate passes my annual resolution to designate May 5 as National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Native Women and Girls, for the fifth year in a row. We hope to continue drawing attention to this crisis as we work together to find a solution.

I would also like to commend the work that the Trump administration has done to address this crisis. In particular, they have established the Lady Justice Program at the Department of the Interior and issued a proclamation on November 26, 2019, to sustain public attention on this ongoing and important situation.●

TRIBUTE TO WILLIE K

• Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, with the passing of Willie K, Hawaii has lost a music legend. Through his raw talent and unmatched musicianship, Willie K blazed a trail that redefined music in Hawaii and across the country.

Born William Kahaialii—and known affectionately as "Uncle Willie" throughout our State—Willie K wouldn't be tied down to any single genre or instrument. Instead, he did it all. Willie could play or sing almost anything.

Willie's love for music came from his family. Raised in a family of musicians in Lahaina, Willie started performing at just 8 years old. Taught by his father and renowned guitarist, Manu

Kahaiali'i, Willie mastered the blues at a young age. He became a virtuoso instrumentalist—learning how to play every instrument that might be needed in a show from a guitar to a bass to a ukulele. And his voice was one of a kind. No style was off limits, even opera. He was able to effortlessly bridge blues and Hawaiian, local and mainstream, music and culture.

Over the course of his career, Willie recorded numerous albums and performed with icons like Prince, Steven Tyler, Willie Nelson, and Santana. Always humble, he described himself as “a working musician”—despite earning 19 Na Hoku Hanohano awards, a Hawaii Academy of Recording Arts Lifetime Achievement Award, and a Grammy nomination.

Willie devoted his life to music and understood its power. He went to great lengths to help other local artists in Hawaii succeed and organized his BBQ Bluesfest annually. Even after he began to feel the effects of his illness, he continued to share his music.

Willie showed us all so many things. He was talented, energetic, passionate, and authentic. But what really separated him from the rest was his unrelenting zest for life and aloha spirit.

My thoughts and deepest sympathies are with his ohana and all those who loved him. He will be well remembered and greatly missed.

May his memory be a blessing. May his music live on.●

TRIBUTE TO PETER M. HAYES

● Ms. SINEMA. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the esteemed career and public service of Mr. Peter M. Hayes, who is retiring as associate general manager and chief public affairs executive of the Salt River Project, or SRP.

The Salt River Project is the Nation's third largest public power utility. It manages an extensive system of dams, reservoirs, wells, canals, and irrigation laterals, providing water and electricity to more than 2 million people in metropolitan Phoenix. As associate general manager and chief public affairs executive, Mr. Hayes has not only been integral in providing utilities to Arizonans' homes; he has also supported many issues that have advanced Arizona's economy, including the expansion of public education, the development of transportation systems, and the construction of infrastructure necessary to support Arizona's sports and tourism industries.

Mr. Hayes has also served as chairman of the board of the Sandra Day O'Connor Institute, the chairman of the Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce, a board member of the Arizona Chamber of Commerce, a trustee of the Arizona Science Center, a member of the Dean's Advisory Board of the Arizona State University Barrett Honors College, and a member of the Arizona Commission on the Arts. He served as an aide to the former Minority Leader and Arizona Congressman John J.

Rhodes, as Deputy Director of Congressional Liaison for two Secretaries of the Interior, and as chief of staff to former Arizona Governor Fife Symington. In both the public and private sectors, Mr. Hayes has been a leader in public policy. He has wielded his expertise and vision to manage a wide array of energy and water issues to benefit the State of Arizona.

I thank Mr. Hayes for his years of dedicated work and public service on behalf of Arizona.●

TRIBUTE TO JILL LEBLANC

● Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week I have the honor of recognizing Jill LeBlanc of Broadwater County for her tremendous efforts to support the community during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

Jill is a certified physician assistant working on the frontlines of the coronavirus pandemic at the Broadwater Health Center.

During the early stages of the pandemic, when the State of Montana was responding to its first cases and health clinics were still navigating procedures on how to handle the COVID-19 outbreak, Jill dropped everything to go serve. She moved out of her home to keep her children safe and spent countless hours at the hospital educating herself and the staff at Broadwater Health Center with the necessary information and up to date procedures on how to handle the outbreak.

Jill spent one-on-one time with each nurse on her shift to provide consistent updates and guidance on CDC guidelines, proper protective equipment protocols, how to handle isolated patients, and methods to conduct testing for COVID-19, both inside the Broadwater Health Center and through the drive-thru triage system.

When Jill is not working at Broadwater Health Center, she spends additional time sharpening her skills at Deer Lodge Medical Center and Benefis, where volumes of patients are higher.

It is my honor to recognize Jill as a health care hero working to protect the health and safety of all Montanans during these uncertain times. I know that the staff and the patients at Broadwater Health Center are grateful for Jill's selflessness and leadership during this pandemic. I am grateful to Jill for the extraordinary work she is doing to support her community.●

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

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.)

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

H.R. 6800. An act making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes.

S. 3833. A bill to extend the loan forgiveness period for the paycheck protection program, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The following executive report of a nomination was submitted:

By Mr. RISCH for the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Michael Pack, of Maryland, to be Chief Executive Officer of the Broadcasting Board of Governors for the term of three years.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

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 Ms. SMITH (for herself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 3792. A bill to require parity in the coverage of mental health and substance use disorder services provided to enrollees in private insurance plans, whether such services are provided in-person or through telehealth; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. JONES, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. WARREN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. REED, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 3793. A bill to amend the CARES Act to modify the employee retention tax credit to secure the paychecks and benefits of workers, to provide a refundable credit against payroll taxes for the operating costs of employers, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a small business rebate, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 3794. A bill to expedite transportation project delivery, facilitate infrastructure improvement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. SMITH (for herself and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 3795. A bill to direct the Securities and Exchange Commission to revise any rules necessary to enable issuers of index-linked annuities to use the securities offering forms that are available to other issuers of securities; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. COTTON:

S. 3796. A bill to withhold funding authorized under the CARES Act from any State or