

to the Supreme Court who will uphold the rule of law and the Constitution as written. I look forward to performing my constitutional duty to advise and consent on his nominee before November 3, 2020.

NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, today I thank the 30 million small businesses in America for their contributions to our economy during this year's National Small Business Week, which began on Sunday, September 20 and ends on Saturday, September 26. National Small Business Week is the time of year when we come together to celebrate our Nation's small businesses for their role in moving our economy forward by boosting local economies, improving industries through innovation, and employing nearly half of our country's workforce.

Taking time to recognize our Nation's small businesses is especially important this year due to the many ways—big and small—that our small businesses have stepped up to help our communities get through the pandemic.

In my home State of Maryland, I have seen distilleries use their facilities to make hand sanitizer when supplies were low; I have seen lacrosse equipment manufacturers produce face shields and masks for doctors and first responders; and I have heard stories about the many small government contractors that are helping Federal agencies address COVID-19. Today I am proud to recognize the founder of one of those small government contractors, Dr. Anton Bizzell, who has been named Maryland Small Business Person of the Year by the Small Business Administration.

Dr. Bizzell's company, the Bizzell Group, is an 8(a) certified small business that specializes in strategy and technology and works at the forefront of public health issues. Most recently, the Bizzell Group has been helping the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention keep our communities aware of the latest information regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

After more than 25 years of experience in health services, policy, and management, Dr. Bizzell founded the Bizzell Group in 2010 to provide data-driven and innovative solutions to clients in an effort to build healthy, secure, and connected communities. In the years since, the company has grown to include nearly 100 employees with four offices in Lanham, Rockville, Atlanta, GA, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Dr. Bizzell has said, "Business is most successful when done with integrity, excellence, and heart, and success is when your end result makes the world a better place." His philosophy is clearly at work at the Bizzell Group.

Dr. Bizzell and the Bizzell Group are a shining example of the vital role

small businesses and entrepreneurs play in our communities. In addition to the more than 100 jobs created by the Bizzell Group, Dr. Bizzell serves on the Maryland Board for the March of Dimes, and he is president of the Delta Lambda Chapter of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.

I congratulate Dr. Bizzell for being named Maryland's Small Business Person of the Year, and I thank him and his colleagues at the Bizzell Group for their efforts to keep our communities informed about COVID-19 during this unprecedented public health crisis. I am proud to represent them in the U.S. Senate.

Now more than ever, these contributions to our economy and communities deserve to be recognized. Dr. Bizzell and the many small business owners like him in communities across the nation are why I will continue to fight for Congress to pass another economic relief bill that meets the needs of our communities and small businesses. So many of our Nation's small businesses have stepped up for us, and Congress must once again do the same for them.

TRIBUTE TO RHONDA ZIMMERMAN

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I rise today in celebration of Rhonda Zimmerman, the Boys and Girls Club of Central Wyoming's 2020 honoree.

Since 1978, the Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Wyoming has worked to make a positive difference in the lives of children. Their mission is to inspire all youth, especially those who need them the most. They strive to help young people reach their full potential as productive, responsible, and caring citizens. The programs, leagues, and activities serve the children in our community by cultivating academic success, healthy lifestyles, and good character and citizenship.

On October 21, 2020, the Boys and Girls Club of Central Wyoming will host the 22nd Annual Awards and Recognition Breakfast. Every year at this event, the Boys and Girls Club honors a member of the community who has made outstanding contributions to their organization, Wyoming youth, and the city of Casper. It is an inspiring celebration.

This year's honoree is Rhonda Zimmerman. She is an ideal choice to receive this honor because of her lifelong dedication to our children and families. With this award, the Boys and Girls Club of Central Wyoming shows their gratitude for Rhonda's work, which mirrors the Club's important mission.

Rhonda has given of her time and talents to the youth of our community for her entire life. Being raised in the Zimmerman family, she was taught the value of hard work and giving back to others. She grew up in Casper, the oldest of her siblings, Mitch, Michael, and Renee, and with her loving parents, Gail, Lois, and later Anne. Their character contributed greatly to Rhonda's Christian values and giving nature.

Rhonda attended Casper College, earning an associate's degree in criminal justice and social work and later earned her bachelor's degree in social work from the University of Wyoming at Casper College.

Rhonda's passion for her community and the well-being of her neighbors has shown time and again through her work as a counselor at the Youth Crisis Center, the Wyoming Behavioral Institute, and Central Wyoming Counseling Center. In 2011, Rhonda cofounded Casper Family Connections. Their mission is to provide children who are unable to live with one or both parents a safe and conflict-free environment. They provide also for healthy contact with the noncustodial family. They offer parenting classes as well as mental health services on top of their important mission, giving children and families a strong foundation on which to build.

Family holds a particularly special place in Rhonda's life. She raised two children, Greg and Kendra. Together, Greg and Rhonda own and operate E&F Towing and Transport in Casper. She also serves on the Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Wyoming board of directors along with her brother Mitch.

Rhonda sets an example everyone can follow. She is the first to offer a helping hand and shows a passion for improving the lives of others. The Code of the West charges us to live each day with courage. Not only does Rhonda embody this principle, but she gives everyone around her the tools they need to live the same. Wyoming, Casper, and the Boys and Girls Club of Central Wyoming are fortunate to have her.

It is with great honor that I recognize this outstanding member of our Wyoming community. My wife, Bobbi, joins me in extending our congratulations to Rhonda Zimmerman upon her selection for this special award.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HISTORIC ASHE HOSPITAL

● Mr. TILLIS. Madam President, I rise today to honor the achievements of the organizations and people who led the successful redevelopment of Historic Ashe Hospital in Jefferson, NC. This once abandoned property on the National Register of Historic Places today provides 46 affordable homes for seniors, people with disabilities, and homeless individuals at a time when affordable housing is needed more than ever.

This incredible property was developed through the use of the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit, known as the Housing Credit. In North Carolina and across the country, it is one of our most important tools in the fight to provide affordable housing for at-risk families in our communities. More than 87,000 North Carolina homes have been developed using the Housing Credit, and more than 3 million homes nationwide. They serve our low-income

seniors, veterans, disabled individuals, and working families.

That is why I am pleased to announce that this important site has been recognized by the Affordable Housing Tax Credit Coalition as a 2020 recipient of the Charles L. Edson Tax Credit Award, which recognizes excellence in the affordable housing industry and organizations that have demonstrated the most impactful use of the Housing Credit.

Historic Ashe Hospital in Jefferson is no exception. The historic building includes a community room for residents to gather, office space for those now working from home, a library for residents of all ages, and a memory room with artifacts from the original hospital. Wide hallways, tall ceilings, and large windows remind residents of the great public spaces of the past and beautiful views of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Historic Ashe is also located across the street from the Appalachian District Health Department, which delivers services including case management, skilled nursing, physical and occupational therapy, and respite care. Vaya Health of western North Carolina provides a variety of mental health services on-site, and other community partners provide GED classes to those interested, transportation to the local senior center, volunteer opportunities, and a variety of other education and support services.

It is truly a monumental achievement in terms of creative property development and the judicious use of public and private funding to benefit the residents of Jefferson, while contributing to the Nation's vital supply of affordable housing.

Several groups and individuals were instrumental in bringing the project to fruition, including Northwestern Housing Enterprises, Incorporated, Redstone Equity Partners, Foss & Company, Bank of Tennessee, Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati, Tise-Kiester Architects of Chapel Hill, and notably E. G. "Ned" Fowler, President of Northwestern Housing Enterprises.

To everyone involved in the development of Historic Ashe Hospital for affordable housing in Jefferson, I offer my congratulations and gratitude on behalf of the people of North Carolina. Thank you.●

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.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Intelligence to be sequentially referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

(The message received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:35 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 743. An act to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the soldiers of the 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional), commonly known as "Merrill's Marauders", in recognition of their bravery and outstanding service in the jungles of Burma during World War II.

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

H.R. 991. An act to extend certain provisions of the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act until September 30, 2030, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1923. An act to amend title 31, United States Code, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint and issue certain circulating collectible coins, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2166. An act to authorize a comprehensive, strategic approach for United States foreign assistance to developing countries to strengthen global health security, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3010. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a mission statement of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

H.R. 3228. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize health professional trainees to provide treatment via telemedicine, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4104. An act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint a coin in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Negro Leagues baseball.

H.R. 4864. An act to develop and implement policies to advance early childhood development, to provide assistance for orphans and other vulnerable children in developing countries, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4908. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to prohibit the collection of a health care copayment by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from a veteran who is a member of an Indian tribe.

H.R. 5664. An act to amend the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 to ensure adequate time for the preparation of the annual Trafficking in Persons Report, require the timely provision of information to the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons and the Bureau of Diplomatic Security of the Department of State regarding the number and location of visa denials based, in whole or in part, on grounds related to human trafficking, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6092. An act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a national clinical pathway for prostate cancer, access to life-saving extending precision clinical trials and research, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6192. An act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to honor the 100th anniversary of completion of coinage of the "Morgan Dollar" and the 100th anniversary of commencement of coinage of the "Peace Dollar", and for other purposes.

H.R. 6210. An act ensuring that goods made with forced labor in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China do not enter the United States market, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6589. An act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to develop and submit to

Congress a plan to address the material weakness of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7795. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the ability of veterans to access and submit disability benefit questionnaire forms of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

H.R. 8276. An act to authorize the President to posthumously award the Medal of Honor to Alwyn C. Cashe for acts of valor during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 991. An act to extend certain provisions of the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act until September 30, 2030, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 1923. An act to amend title 31, United States Code, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint and issue certain circulating collectible coins, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 2166. An act to authorize a comprehensive, strategic approach for United States foreign assistance to developing countries to strengthen global health security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 3010. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a mission statement of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 4864. An act to develop and implement policies to advance early childhood development, to provide assistance for orphans and other vulnerable children in developing countries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 4908. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to prohibit the collection of a health care copayment by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from a veteran who is a member of an Indian tribe; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 5664. An act to amend the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 to ensure adequate time for the preparation of the annual Trafficking in Persons Report, require the timely provision of information to the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons and the Bureau of Diplomatic Security of the Department of State regarding the number and location of visa denials based, in whole or in part, on grounds related to human trafficking, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 6092. An act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a national clinical pathway for prostate cancer, access to life-saving extending precision clinical trials and research, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 6192. An act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to honor the 100th anniversary of completion of coinage of the "Morgan Dollar" and the 100th anniversary of commencement of coinage of the "Peace Dollar", and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 6210. An act ensuring that goods made with forced labor in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China do not enter the United States market, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 6589. An act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to develop and submit to Congress a plan to address the material weakness of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.