

Latin America, we also see the fingerprints of the Castro regime. The Cuban people have suffered decades of oppression under Castro's regime. So many courageous individuals have dedicated their lives to the freedom of Cuba, and their commitment and sacrifice have kept the hope of liberty alive.

It is time to show Castro that his era of influence in Latin America is over. The United States must always support those fighting for freedom and democracy, and I will never stop fighting to bring a new day of freedom to Cuba and all of Latin America.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO ANNE STORDAHL

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week I have the honor of recognizing Anne Stordahl of Pondera County for her commitment to supporting Montana small businesses.

Anne has been a small business owner in Conrad, Montana for 15 years. When the local candy shop closed in her community, Anne decided to help boost community morale by taking on a new project and business. She opened the 2B Sweet Candy shop right next to her hair salon, giving her customers a chance to grab some candy while waiting for their next haircut.

Anne enlisted the help of her three children to open a new candy store that could bring some joy back to their community, especially in a time of uncertainty when many small businesses were closing their doors. Her son handled the behind the scenes work of taking inventory and balancing the books while her daughters handled a variety of tasks like designing candy bouquets and serving customers.

Anne grew up on a farm and was able to use this experience to teach her children what a strong Montana work ethic looks like and the importance of family operations to our communities. At the beginning, she hoped the store would bring her family closer, and looking back, she would say this was a sweet success.

It is my honor to recognize Anne and her children for taking the initiative to successfully launch the 2B Sweet Candy Shop. It is now a proud part of the Conrad community.●

REMEMBERING JIM PUTEK

• Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, on January 25, 2021, America lost a great patriot CPT James "Jim" Ronald Putek, 75, of Alpharetta, GA. Born in Chicago, IL, Jim was a decorated Army veteran having served in the Vietnam war, where he received the following awards: the National Defense Service Medal, the Bronze Star with one oakleaf Cluster, the Air Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal with one Silver and one Bronze Service Star, the Army Aviator Badge, and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

Captain Putek's heroism will live forever. Following his retirement from the Army, Jim continued his passion for aviation as a commercial airline pilot for Piedmont Airlines and US Airways.

Captain Putek is survived by his wife Tricia Putek, his sister Delores, his sister-in-law Mary, and his nieces and nephews Hank, Gwen, Joanne, Janet, and Jon. He was preceded in death by his parents Walter and Frances, and his brother Henry.

Jim Putek was a fine gentleman and a true hero, respected and revered by everyone who met him. When Captain Putek passed, we not only lost a good man, we lost a great American.●

TRIBUTE TO DOMINIC LAJOIE

• Mr. KING. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Dominic LaJoie of Van Buren, ME, who was recently named as National Potato Council, NPC, president for 2021. The National Potato Council is a grower-led organization managed by an Executive Committee and Board of Directors, which oversees its operations and provides guidance on its policy activities. It does not surprise me that Dominic LaJoie was chosen as the 2021 president to lead the council's Executive Committee because Dominic epitomizes the qualities that are needed to bring State potato grower organizations together at the national level. He has a proven history of promoting collaboration and respectful, healthy debate to further best practices and innovation in agriculture for years. Dominic has also served on the Maine Potato Board and has been a long standing and active participant of the National Potato Council in previous years including serving on the Trade Committee and as first vice president and vice president of the Environmental Affairs Committee.

But those are the only the highlights of one well-deserved appointment. What truly makes Dominic stand out is his heart for farming, for his family and for his community all while stepping up to serve in a national seat. Dominic and his family are fourth generation potato farmers. He is so humble and proud to work with his brother and nephew, along with the support of their wives and children, on the land that was farmed by their parents and their grandparents before them. Dominic's work ethic and character have shone through throughout his career as a farmer, but never one to just sit idle, their farm diversified and added grain and root vegetables, and they have worked to carve out new niche products in the natural snacks and health food markets. He is active in many civic activities and in his church, and when given a chance to speak of his wife and four children, his already genuine and wide smile broadens even further with an acknowledgment of his blessings.

I was pleased to tour their farm in Van Buren a couple of years ago and

learned directly about their farm: the innovations and value added products; their focus on precision farming and efficiencies to enhance the productivity of their legacy farm and stewardship of the land they grew up on. Upon one of Dominic's awards received in recent years, he was asked if he had advice to those who are considering taking up farming, and he replied "Never give up, be open-minded and embrace change, take chances." It was immediately clear to me that Dominic's successes through attention to detail, sound business practices, and a true commitment to the future of agriculture was what brought him to be nominated and appointed as president of the National Potato Council for 2021.

I would like to recognize and thank Dominic for his ongoing commitment to upholding the legacy of potato growers in our State and this country. I cannot speak highly enough of Dominic and look forward to his service as the president of the National Potato Council Executive Committee.●

RECOGNIZING HUNTER'S BAR-B-Q

• Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I will recognize an outstanding Kentucky small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize a family-owned small business and southern Kentucky staple, Hunter's Bar-B-Q of Albany, KY, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

On Hunter Shearer's 13th birthday, when other boys wanted skateboards or baseball gloves, Shearer asked for a new Weber gas grill. From that point on, he was cooking for family and friends every chance he could. As a welder, Shearer built his own mobile grill and smoker, which he used to cook at family and church events. He first sold barbeque to the public in 2009, at the 127 Yard Sale. Seeing a business opportunity, Shearer decided to pursue his boyhood dream of owning a restaurant. In 2012, Hunter began working with his father-in-law Mike Duvall to convert an old service station into a restaurant. Sixteen months later, Hunter's Bar-B-Q welcomed its first customers in 2014.

In 2021, Hunter's Bar-B-Q continues to serve up some of the best BBQ in southern Kentucky, and folks drive from all over the State to enjoy their signature hickory smoked meat and family-friendly hospitality. Hunter's care and attention to detail are evident in every aspect of his restaurant and catering business. At the restaurant, everything is made from scratch, from handmade picnic tables and cooking equipment to the smoke shack, pits, and charcoal makers. Even the charcoal is made on site, using hickory wood from local sawmills.

Locally, Hunter's Bar-B-Q is known as "the place with the big flag." It

boasts a 25 by 40-foot American flag atop a 100-foot flagpole almost as big as the store. Thanks to the smokers and pits, Hunter's Bar-B-Q can feed around 3,000 people a day. The pulled pork and sliced shoulder are favorites, attracting customers from all over the country. Catering is also a large part of the business, with Hunter's Bar-B-Q catering events as far away as Louisville.

Together with his wife, Shannon, Hunter seeks to give back to their community in any way possible. Locally, Hunter's Bar-B-Q sponsors Little League and high school sports teams. They regularly support community organizations, including sponsoring Project Graduation, the All for Benny Fundraiser, and the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. Additionally, Hunter's Bar-B-Q has supported numerous fundraisers that have covered emergency and medical expenses for local members of the community. Hunter's Bar-B-Q is a proud member of the Albany/Clinton County Chamber of Commerce. Notably, Hunter's Bar-B-Q is one of two caterers designated by the Lake Cumberland District Health Department to provide food for events in Clinton County, Kentucky.

Hunter's Bar-B-Q is a remarkable example of how hard work, ingenuity, and discipline can turn a childhood dream into reality. Small businesses like Hunter's Bar-B-Q form the heart of communities across Kentucky, regularly stepping up to support their communities. Congratulations to Hunter, Shannon, and the entire team at Hunter's Bar-B-Q. I wish them the best of luck and look forward to watching their continued growth and success in Kentucky.●

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

As 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.)

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REPORT RELATIVE TO THE ISSUANCE OF AN EXECUTIVE ORDER THAT DECLARES A NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE UNUSUAL AND EXTRAORDINARY THREAT TO THE NATIONAL SECURITY, FOREIGN POLICY, AND ECONOMY OF THE UNITED STATES POSED BY SPECIFIED HARMFUL FOREIGN ACTIVITIES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION—PM 7

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 (50 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*) (IEEPA), I hereby report that I have issued an Executive Order declaring a national emergency with respect to the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States posed by specified harmful foreign activities of the Government of the Russian Federation.

I have determined that specified harmful foreign activities of the Government of the Russian Federation—in particular, efforts to undermine the conduct of free and fair democratic elections and democratic institutions in the United States and its allies and partners; to engage in and facilitate malicious cyber-enabled activities against the United States and its allies and partners; to foster and use transnational corruption to influence foreign governments; to pursue extraterritorial activities targeting dissidents or journalists; to undermine security in countries and regions important to United States national security; and to violate well-established principles of international law, including respect for the territorial integrity of states—constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States.

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

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.
THE WHITE HOUSE, April 15, 2021.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:34 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 bills, without amendment:

S. 164. An act to educate health care providers and the public on biosimilar biological products, and for other purposes.

S. 415. An act to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to the scope of new chemical exclusivity.

S. 578. An act to improve the health and safety of Americans living with food aller-

gies and related disorders, including potentially life-threatening anaphylaxis, food protein-induced enterocolitis syndrome, and eosinophilic gastrointestinal diseases, and for other purposes.

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

H.R. 172. An act to reauthorize the United States Anti-Doping Agency, and for other purposes.

H.R. 189. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide that the authority of the Director of the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities to make certain research endowments applies with respect to both current and former centers of excellence, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1766. An act to enhance cooperation between the Federal Trade Commission and State Attorneys General to combat unfair and deceptive practices, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the following resolution:

H. Res. 312. Resolution relative to the death of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings, a Representative from the State of Florida.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 172. An act to reauthorize the United States Anti-Doping Agency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 1766. An act to enhance cooperation between the Federal Trade Commission and State Attorneys General to combat unfair and deceptive practices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 189. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide that the authority of the Director of the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities to make certain research endowments applies with respect to both current and former centers of excellence, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. REED for the Committee on Armed Services.

*Navy nomination of Adm. John C. Aquilino, to be Admiral.

By Mr. MENENDEZ for the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Samantha Power, of Massachusetts, to be Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

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.