

She received a number of awards and decorations during her military career including the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, and the Arkansas Commendation Medal. In 2018, she was inducted into the Arkansas Military Veterans Hall of Fame. It was a well-deserved honor for her tremendous military service and her dedication to fighting for the needs of servicemembers and veterans throughout her years with the U.S. Senate.

It has been a blessing and true honor to have Anita Deason as a member of my team. Her unique perspective, dedication, and caring nature have been invaluable in our work to meet the needs of Arkansas' veterans. She truly made a difference. We will all miss working with her and wish her the best of luck in retirement.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Swann, 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 and a withdrawal which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 10:02 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 1917. An act to establish a K-12 education cybersecurity initiative, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2278. An act to designate the September 11th National Memorial Trail Route, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 4. A bill to amend the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to revise the criteria for determining which States and political subdivisions are subject to section 4 of the Act, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, October 5, 2021, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 1917. An act to establish a K-12 education cybersecurity initiative, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-2329. A communication from the Director of the Legal Processing Division, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Recapture of Excess Employment Tax Credits under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021" (RIN1545-BQ09) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2021; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2330. A communication from the Director of the Legal Processing Division, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Notice regarding the Special Per Diem Rates for 2021-2022" (Notice 2021-52) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2021; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2331. A communication from the Director of the Legal Processing Division, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Guidance on Reporting Qualified Sick Leave Wages and Qualified Family Leave Wages Paid For Leave Provided in 2021" (Notice 2021-53) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2021; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2332. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of firearms, parts, and components abroad controlled under Category I of the U.S. Munitions List to Germany in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 21-049); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2333. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of defense articles, including technical data and defense services to Germany, for the manufacture of significant military equipment abroad (Transmittal No. DDTC 20-025); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2334. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of defense articles, including technical data and defense services to Australia, the UK, and the UAE in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 20-090); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2335. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of firearms abroad controlled under Category I of the U.S. Munitions List to Thailand in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 20-082); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2336. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of defense articles, including technical data and defense

services to the UK in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 21-018); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2337. A communication from the Secretary of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Total and Permanent Disability Discharge of Loans Under Title IV of the Higher Education Act" (RIN1840-AD48) received in the Office of the President pro tempore of the Senate; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2338. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing Benefits" (29 CFR Part 4044) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 28, 2021; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2339. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; Updating Payment Parameters, Section 1332 Waiver Implementing Regulations, and Improving Health Insurance Markets for 2022 and Beyond" (RIN0938-AU60) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2021; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2340. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Import Tolerances for Residues of Unapproved New Animal Drugs in Food" (RIN0910-AF78) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 28, 2021; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2341. A communication from the Compliance Specialist, Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Tip Regulations Under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA); Partial Withdrawal" (RIN1235-AA21) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 28, 2021; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2342. A communication from the Board Members of the Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's fiscal year 2021 Annual Report; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2343. A communication from the Secretary of Labor and the Director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation's fiscal year 2020 Actuarial Evaluation of the Expected Operations and Status of the PBGC Funds; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2344. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 24-176, "Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Support Act of 2021"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2345. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Hiring Authority for Post-Secondary Students" (RIN3206-AN86) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 28, 2021; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2346. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Access to Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) for Employees of Certain Tribally Controlled Schools" (RIN3206-AO18) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 28, 2021; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2347. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Deputy Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 28, 2021; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2348. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Under Secretary for Management, Department of Homeland Security, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 28, 2021; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2349. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Affairs and Collaborative Action, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Indian Business Incubators Program" (RIN1076-AF63) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2021; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-2350. A communication from the Agency Representative, Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2021 Increase of the Annual Limit on Accepted Requests for Track One Prioritized Examination" (RIN0651-AD56) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 28, 2021; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2351. A communication from the Chief of the Regulatory Coordination Division, Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Asylum Interview Interpreter Requirement Modification Due to COVID-19" (RIN1615-AC59) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2021; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2352. A communication from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Presumptive Service Connection for Respiratory Conditions Due to Exposure to Particulate Matter" (RIN2900-AR25) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2021; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-2353. A communication from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Nomenclature Change for Position Title" (RIN2900-AR09) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2021; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-2354. A communication from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Extension of the Presumptive Period for Compensation for Gulf War Veterans" (RIN2900-AR22) received in the Office of the

President of the Senate on September 23, 2021; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-2355. A communication from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Veterans Care Agreements" (RIN2900-AQ45) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2021; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-2356. A communication from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Extension of Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers Eligibility for Legacy Participants and Legacy Applicants" (RIN2900-AR28) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2021; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-2357. A communication from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Elimination of Copayment for Opioid Antagonists and Education on use of Opioid Antagonists" (RIN2900-AQ31) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2021; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-2358. A communication from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Referral for VA Administrative Decision for Character of Discharge Determinations" (RIN2900-AR03) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2021; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. PETERS, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, without amendment:

S. 2551. A bill to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to establish or otherwise provide an artificial intelligence training program for the acquisition workforce, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 117-40).

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. BROWN for the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

*Alan F. Estevez, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Industry and Security.

*Graham Scott Steele, of California, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury.

*Thea D. Rozman Kendler, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce.

*Alexia Marie Gabrielle Latortue, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury.

*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. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. OSSOFF, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COONS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. PETERS, Mr. REED, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 4. A bill to amend the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to revise the criteria for determining which States and political subdivisions are subject to section 4 of the Act, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Ms. LUMMIS):

S. 2930. A bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to modify requirements for local school wellness policies; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. TUBERVILLE (for himself and Ms. LUMMIS):

S. 2931. A bill to amend the Defense Production Act of 1950 to prevent harm and disruption to the United States agriculture industry by protecting against foreign influence over agriculture production and supply chains, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself and Mr. JOHNSON):

S. 2932. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 430 South Knowles Avenue in New Richmond, Wisconsin, as the "Captain Robert C. Harmon and Private John R. Peirson Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. MARSHALL:

S. 2933. A bill to impose sanctions with respect to members of the Chinese Communist Party and heads of Chinese health agencies relating to the COVID-19 pandemic, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. TOOMEY (for himself, Mr. WARNER, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEE, Mr. MORAN, Mr. SASSE, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 2934. A bill to amend the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 to impose limitations on the authority of the President to adjust imports that are determined to threaten to impair national security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. LEAHY, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 2935. A bill to amend the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 to provide leave because of the death of a son or daughter; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CASSIDY:

S. 2936. A bill to amend the CARES Act and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify