60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the 60th anniversary of the National Reconnaissance Office, NRO.

Born in September 1961, the present day National Reconnaissance Office was formed by agreement between the Secretary of Defense and the Director of Central Intelligence during the height of the Cold War. In the first decade of the Cold War, American ingenuity and engineering had enabled significant advances to meet the demand for better reconnaissance as new, high-altitude aircraft like the U–2 and its high-speed successors, the A–12 and SR–71, were developed. However, even this new technology had its limitations. This became acutely clear with the shoot-down of CIA pilot Francis Gary Powers' U–2 in 1960. Thankfully, American aerospace engineers were also maturing new rocket and sensor technologies that enabled the United States to meet the increasing national security challenge of how to analyze Soviet forces to avert a nuclear war.

Carrying over from the Eisenhower to Kennedy administrations, a group of remarkable Americans brought the foresight of combining a number of government satellite efforts into a single U.S. intelligence organization that would become the modem NRO. These optical experts, chemists, physicists, engineers, military officers, mathematicians, and photography entrepreneurs recognized the value of a national policy of peacetime strategic reconnaissance in addressing the Soviet threat as well as future, unforeseen, national security challenges.

Assuming control of the previously initiated Corona photoreconnaissance program and following up with the Gambit, Hexagon, and signals intelligence programs, the NRO was able to supply the essential intelligence information needed to understand Soviet missile capabilities. The intelligence information the NRO provided to analysts and policymakers was critical in keeping nuclear tensions in check at the most tense points of the Cold War.

With the arms limitation treaties of the 1970s, the need for the verification of Soviet military capabilities posed a new challenge for policymakers. The scientists and engineers of the NRO would once again rise to the challenge by designing and building the Kennen digital imagery satellite and other unique overhead technological capabilities to respond to these daunting intelligence requirements.

In recent times, the capabilities of the NRO have been vital to helping us better understand and react to our Nation's toughest challenges, helping to see the unseen across the globe, from the hunt for Osama bin Laden and supporting counterterrorism operations around the globe, to helping us recover from natural disasters like hurricanes and wildfires here at home.

While this 60th anniversary is an appropriate time to celebrate the rich history and innovations of the NRO of the past, I think it is also important to recognize where the NRO is moving today and into the future and for the American people to understand why the NRO is so vital to our security.

Our colleagues on the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence and I have challenged the NRO to move faster in building and acquiring the next generation of space reconnaissance capabilities, including commercial technologies, as the great power competition with Russia and China takes shape.

NRO is rising to this challenge. Even as the COVID–19 pandemic has impacted so many parts of our society, economy, and supply chain, the NRO's workforce has stayed on task. In the last 18 months the NRO has not only maintained 100 percent of its mission capability, but the NRO also has had a record series of launches and payload deliveries into orbit, with 8 launches and 16 payloads in 2020 and 2021, including a launch from Wallops Island, in the Commonwealth of Virginia. I am also pleased to point out that the NRO also delivered its 12th consecutive clean financial audit during this pandemic period.

The NRO of today and tomorrow is growing its partnerships in both the private and public sectors. Within the Department of Defense, the NRO is partnering with the U.S. Space Force and U.S. Space Command to integrate national space operations with the combatant commander and Federal decision-maker requirements and to protect and defend our Nation's assets in space.

Likewise, the NRO is increasing engagement with allies, and particularly the Five Eyes nations, to better leverage capabilities and take advantage of new opportunities, such as the NRO's first satellite launch from an overseas location in 2020 from New Zealand. The NRO works side by side with intelligence community partners such as the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency to support the NGA's imagery analysis mission and the National Security Agency to support the NSA's analysis of signals and radio frequency signatures.

In the private sector arena, the NRO is building off a 60-year history of working with U.S. industry by embracing the benefits of the growing U.S. commercial space industry and delivering more capabilities at a lower cost to the taxpayers, taking advantage of a full range of services from commercial imagery and commercial cloud services to commercial launch.

Speeding innovation in anticipation of tomorrow's intelligence needs, the NRO is working with universities and research institutions across the Nation, looking for new ways to adapt existing capabilities and to bring online new technologies, The NRO is pushing the boundaries of advanced science and technology for new phenomenology and applications that will improve and enhance the NRO's ability to provide policymakers and warfighters with advanced warning of events and provide critical insights into the capabilities and intentions of our adversaries.

None of this work could be done without the women and men of the NRO. The NRO workforce, a blend of military, civilian, and contract employees, is one of the most technical and highly skilled in the government. They are engineers, scientists, IT professionals, space system operators, and acquisition and program managers, with advanced degrees and a diversity of backgrounds and experiences. They are some of the best our Nation has to offer. They are the vital piece that makes the NRO not only a great place to work but makes the NRO the best place to work if you want to build the satellites, rockets, and ground systems that support our national security.

From the NRO pioneers to the workforce of today, the women and men of the NRO can always be counted on to stand true to their motto, ''Supra Et Ultra,'' always going Above and Beyond. I offer my congratulations to the NRO on an exceptional 60 years, and I look forward to seeing how the NRO will lead us into the next 60 years of space reconnaissance.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING LAD N' LASSIE CHILDREN'S BOUTIQUE

● Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week, I recognize an outstanding Kentucky small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize a woman-owned small business, Lad n' Lassie Children's Boutique of Prestonsburg, KY, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

In 1965, Dorothy Marshal founded Lad n' Lassie Children's Boutique. Noticing the lack of children's clothing retailers, Dorothy seized the opportunity to fill a gap in the local market. Over the next 32 years, Dorothy's boutique sold the finest children's clothing, shoes, and toys to her customers. She retired from Lad n' Lassie in 1997, selling the business to longtime family friend and Prestonsburg native, Cheryl Leslie.

In 2021, Lad n' Lassie Children's Boutique continues serving Floyd County. The store moved to a new location in downtown Prestonsburg in 1999, where it remains today. Under Cheryl's leadership, inventory expanded to include educational products and gifts. Lad n' Lassie supports small businesses, featuring locally and regionally made items. Customers are regularly greeted by name and treated like family. The store hosts community events, including workshops with visiting artists, and participates in downtown holiday

events and festivals. Lad n' Lassie is a go-to for local baby shower gift registries, supporting generations of Kentuckians as they grow their families and welcome children into the world.

Like many small business owners, Cheryl is actively involved in her community. She is a member of the chamber of commerce and regularly meets with local merchants to discuss business development. For years, Lad n' Lassie has contributed to a wide range of local philanthropic organizations, sponsoring events such as the Appalachian Hospice Care's Annual Veterans' Appreciation Luncheon. They regularly support local school district events and organizations, including the sponsorship of dance, cheerleading, and sports teams. During the holiday season, Lad n' Lassie sponsors the annual Prestonsburg Police Department's ''Shop with a Cop'' event, providing holiday care packages and gift for children in need. Additionally, they sponsored Mountain Comprehensive Care Center's—MCCC—Royal Christmas Ball, which helps children impacted by behavioral health issues, developmental and intellectual disabilities, and addiction. Over the years, the boutique's outstanding service and community involvement have been recognized by local publications and organizations. Most recently, Lad n' Lassie was named the ''Best of the Best'' children's clothing store in 2021 by the local newspaper, the Floyd County Chronicle & Times.

Lad n' Lassie Children's Boutique is an outstanding example of the critical role small businesses play in uplifting and advocating for their communities. Congratulations to Cheryl and the entire team at Lad n' Lassie. 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 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 which were referred to the appropriate committees.

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

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:20 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, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 654. An act to provide the Administrator of the Drug-Free Communities Support Program the authority to waive the Federal fund limitation for the Drug-Free Communities Support Program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 767. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 40 Fulton Street in Middletown, New York, as the ''Benjamin A. Gilman Post Office Building''.

H.R. 960. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3493 Burnet Avenue in Cincinnati, Ohio, as the ''John H. Leahr and Herbert M. Heilbrun Post Office''.

H.R. 1170. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1 League in Irvine, California, as the ''Tuskegee Airman Lieutenant Colonel Robert J. Friend Memorial Post Office Building''.

H.R. 1444. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 132 North Loudoun Street, Suite 1 in Winchester, Virginia, as the ''Patsy Cline Post Office''.

H.R. 1508. An act to require a guidance clarity statement on certain agency guidance, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2044. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 17 East Main Street in Herington, Kansas, as the ''Captain Emil J. Kapaun Post Office Building''.

H.R. 2379. An act to amend the 21st Century Cures Act to reauthorize and expand a grant program for State response to the opioid use disorders crisis, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3175. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 135 Main Street in Biloxi, Mississippi, as the ''Robert S. McKeithen Post Office Building''.

H.R. 3210. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1905 15th Street in Boulder, Colorado, as the ''Officer Eric H. Talley Post Office Building''.

H.R. 3419. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 66 Meserole Avenue in Brooklyn, New York, as the ''Joseph R. Lentol Post Office''.

H.R. 3635. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to the Strategic National Stockpile, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3919. An act to ensure that the Federal Communications Commission prohibits authorization of radio frequency devices that pose a national security risk.

H.R. 4028. An act to require the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information, to report on and develop a whole-of-Government strategy with respect to the economic competitiveness of the information and communication technology supply chain, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4032. An act to provide outreach and technical assistance to small providers regarding Open RAN networks, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4067. An act to direct the Federal Communications Commission to establish a council to make recommendations on ways to increase the security, reliability, and interoperability of communications networks, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4611. An act to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to issue guidance with respect to certain information and communications technology or services contracts, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 654. An act to provide the Administrator of the Drug-Free Communities Support Program the authority to waive the Federal fund limitation for the Drug-Free Communities Support Program and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 767. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 40 Fulton Street in Middletown, New York, as the ''Benjamin A. Gilman Post Office Building''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 960. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3493 Burnet Avenue in Cincinnati, Ohio, as the ''John H. Leahr and Herbert M. Heilbrun Post Office''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 1170. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1 League in Irvine, California, as the ''Tuskegee Airman Lieutenant Colonel Robert J. Friend Memorial Post Office Building''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 1444. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 132 North Loudoun Street, Suite 1 in Winchester, Virginia, as the ''Patsy Cline Post Office''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 2044. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 17 East Main Street in Herington, Kansas, as the ''Captain Emil J. Kapaun Post Office Building''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 2379. An act to amend the 21st Century Cures Act to reauthorize and expand a grant program for State response to the opioid use disorders crisis, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 3175. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 135 Main Street in Biloxi, Mississippi, as the ''Robert S. McKeithen Post Office Building''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 3210. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1905 15th Street in Boulder, Colorado, as the ''Officer Eric H. Talley Post Office Building''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

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H.R. 3635. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to the Strategic National Stockpile, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 4028. An act to require the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information, to report on and develop a whole-of-Government strategy with respect to the economic competitiveness of the information and communication technology supply chain, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 4032. An act to provide outreach and technical assistance to small providers regarding the benefits of Open RAN networks, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 4067. An act to direct the Federal Communications Commission to establish a council to make recommendations on ways to increase the security, reliability, and interoperability of communications networks, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.