

I was necessarily absent, but had I been present I would have voted yes on rollcall vote 520 on the motion to invoke cloture on Jennifer Thurston to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of California.

I was necessarily absent, but had I been present I would have voted yes on rollcall vote 521 on the confirmation of Jennifer Thurston to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of California.

I was necessarily absent, but had I been present I would have voted yes on rollcall vote 522 on the motion to invoke cloture on Katherine Menendez to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Minnesota.

I was necessarily absent, but had I been present I would have voted yes on rollcall vote 523 on the confirmation of Katherine Menendez to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Minnesota.

I was necessarily absent, but had I been present I would have voted yes on rollcall vote 524 on the motion to invoke cloture on Mary Dimke to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Washington.

I was necessarily absent, but had I been present I would have voted yes on rollcall vote 525 on the confirmation of Mary Dimke to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Washington.

I was necessarily absent, but had I been present I would have voted yes on rollcall vote 526 on the confirmation of Rahm Emanuel to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Japan.

I was necessarily absent, but had I been present I would have voted yes on rollcall vote 527 on the motion to invoke cloture on Gabriel Sanchez to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

I was necessarily absent, but had I been present I would have voted yes on rollcall vote 528 on the motion to invoke cloture on Holly Thomas to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL L. HANNA

Mr. RISCH. Madam President, I rise today to congratulate and honor the retirement of one of my senior staff members and friend who has served in my home State of Idaho for the last 13 years as the regional director of my Lewiston office, Michael "Mike" L. Hanna.

Following his retirement from the timber industry, Mike came to my staff after my first election to the U.S. Senate in May of 2009. I knew right away that he was a perfect fit for the regional director position in my Lewiston office. As a result, my chief of staff and I hired him immediately following his interview.

Mike was born in Boise, ID, and was raised there and in the Emmett Valley, where his parents' families worked as farmers and sawmill workers. Growing up in a farming and timber family eventually led him to the University of

Idaho, where he graduated with a bachelor of science degree in forest management in 1976.

Upon graduating from U of I, Mike began his 33-year career in the timber industry as a forester with the Idaho Department of Lands. After 12 years with the State of Idaho, he transitioned to the private sector, where he worked for Empire Lumber Company, Weyerhaeuser, and Three River Timber.

Given his expertise and vast knowledge of the timber industry, Mike was frequently called upon to participate in and lead collaborative groups and natural resource associations and organizations. To name but a few, he was a founding member of the Clearwater Basin Collaborative, president of the Intermountain Logging Conference board of directors, president of the Resource Organization on Timber Supply, or ROOTS, president of the Clearwater Resource Coalition, and the chairman of the Forestry Committee of the Intermountain Forestry Association. He was also recognized by the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation for his U.S. Forest Service stewardship contract work.

With his deep roots in Idaho and the timber industry, he was the perfect representative to the natural resource communities of the Clearwater Region, stationed out of my Lewiston office. During his 13 years of service as my regional director, he advised and guided my office through many complicated issues, like the Idaho roadless rule implementation, the salmon and steelhead management plans, Columbia River Treaty, Good Neighbor Authority, tribal relations, and too many other issues to name.

Mike and his wife Nancy have been married for 45 years and have made their home in Orofino, ID for 44 years, where they are an integral part of the fabric of the community. They have two children, Lindsay and Adam, and five grandchildren.

It is always difficult to lose a trusted staff member of Mike's character, experience, and knowledge, and I wish him and Nancy nothing but the best in their retirement and look forward to our continued friendship in the years ahead.

Congratulations and thank you for your outstanding service to my staff and the citizens of Idaho.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PALACE THEATER

• Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, today I rise to recognize the Palace Theater in Waterbury, CT as it celebrates 100 years of artistic achievement and advocacy.

The Palace Theater originally opened on January 28, 1922. With the culmination of a \$1 million investment in décor by Sylvester Z. Poli and the remark-

able architectural work of Thomas Lamb, the theater soon became a hub for cultural activity in Waterbury before the onset of World War II.

The ornate building started as a movie and vaudeville house. Over the past century, the Palace has hosted a wide breadth of performances and productions, from silent films to rock concerts and everything in between. In 1983, the U.S. Department of the Interior honored the Palace Theater by listing it on the National Register of Historic Places.

In 1987, the theater closed for 18 years. However, a 3-year, \$30 million restoration, renovation, and expansion project impressively reshaped the Palace. When it reopened, the theater was a state-of-the-art, 90,000-square-foot arena. Now a vast complex, the Palace is known as Greater Waterbury's Center for the Performing Arts.

In its current state, the Palace hosts educational programming, Broadway tours, and a variety of family entertainment. The theater's team is committed to serving the greater Waterbury community by establishing not just a magnificent artistic site but also a highly regarded educational and cultural center.

The Palace Theater is recognized as one of the premier arts facilities in New England, and I have had the privilege of visiting on a number of occasions to speak with the staff there. I am continuously impressed by the Palace's record of achievement and the tireless dedication of everyone involved to furthering arts education and advocacy for countless Connecticut residents and visitors.

I applaud the theater on its extraordinary history of accomplishment, and I hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating the Palace Theater on 100 years of excellence.●

TRIBUTE TO MARK BENNETT

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam President, I rise today to commend Mark Bennett, who is retiring as chief of the water development division of the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission after a 34-year career creating and preserving access to water in our State.

Through his work, Mark has helped provide clean, safe, and reliable water to countless Arkansans and has been instrumental in the conservation of our State's land and water resources. Thanks to Mark's dedication and commitment to the people of Arkansas, he has ensured that future generations will be able to enjoy the beautiful land and wildlife the Natural State is known for.

Mark is a true Arkansas success story. Raised near Lake Village and a graduate of Lakeside High School, Mark earned a bachelor's degree in both agricultural economics and banking and finance from Mississippi State University. He continued his education at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock William H. Bowen School of Law

and the University of Arkansas School of Law, where he earned a master of laws degree in agricultural law.

Mark served the people of Arkansas as general counsel for the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission for nearly 20 years. He continued his public service as the chief of water development with the natural resources division of the department of agriculture. In this role, Mark oversaw a variety of crucial infrastructure programs including the Arkansas Clean Water Revolving Loan Program, the Arkansas Drinking Water Revolving Loan Program, the Arkansas Water Development Fund, and the Arkansas Water, Sewer and Solid Waste Fund to assist Arkansans with water, wastewater, and solid waste projects. Mark has also served as the state cochair and member of the EPA—State SRF working group and is a former board member and past president of the Council of Infrastructure Financing Authorities board of directors.

I am grateful for Mark's experience and expertise. His guidance was instrumental in crafting Federal legislation to modernize investment in water infrastructure. The Securing Required Funding for Water Infrastructure Now, or SRF WIN, Act was signed into law in 2018 and is improving access to clean water in Arkansas and across the country. Mark's knowledge in this field was invaluable as my staff and I developed this legislation.

Generations of Arkansans will continue to benefit from Mark's extraordinary efforts to provide quality water infrastructure and further conservation efforts in our State. His dedication to improving the lives of his fellow Arkansans is an inspiration, and I wish him the best of luck in retirement.●

RECOGNIZING IDAHO OPERATION LIFESAVER

● Mr. CRAPO. Madam President, I congratulate Idaho Operation Lifesaver on its 50-year anniversary of working to keep people safe around railroad tracks and railway crossings. Thank you to all those involved with this highway/rail safety effort for advancing rail safety across Idaho and our country.

Idaho Operation Lifesaver was started in Post Falls, ID, in 1972 and was adopted in other States and nationally. According to Idaho Operation Lifesaver, the average number of highway/rail incidents was 12,000 annually when Idaho Operation Lifesaver was created. Idaho Operation Lifesaver is credited with a 43-percent decrease in incidents in its first year following a 6-week public awareness campaign started through cooperative work between then-Idaho Governor Cecil Andrus, the Idaho State Police, and Union Pacific railroad.

This effort is currently supported by 78 volunteers across our great State of Idaho who assist with providing safety presentations to school groups, driver education classes, community mem-

bers, professional drivers, law enforcement officers, and emergency responders. The group's focus on education, engineering, and enforcement is also part of its Officer on a Train Program, employed for the past nearly 30 years to decrease car-train collisions. Through the program, Idaho State Police Troopers and Officers from local police departments work together to stop drivers committing track safety violations to prevent collisions, prevent trespassing on railroad property, and save lives.

Idaho is filled with problem-solvers and doers. So it is no surprise this railway safety effort got its start in our great State. I congratulate Idaho Operation Lifesaver on this significant milestone. I wish all those involved with Idaho Operation Lifesaver well, as you continue to work to keep people safe from rail accidents across our State and Nation.●

RECOGNIZING THE IDAHO FALLS AFRICAN AMERICAN ALLIANCE

● Mr. RISCH. Madam President, Martin Luther King, Jr., dreamed of a world of peace and equality, and honoring his legacy is a central priority of the Idaho Falls African American Alliance, or AAA. Today, I recognize the accomplishments of the Idaho Falls AAA and highlight their 15th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr., Banquet.

The Idaho Falls AAA was formed in 2006, when a few members of the community became aware of a local African-American high school student in need of funds to travel to a regional debate competition. One of these individuals was the current Idaho Falls AAA president, David Snell. Growing up, his mother told him, "You should never be a part of a community that does not feel your presence. It is your personal responsibility to make sure your community is better because you were a part of it." The group worked together to raise \$300 and sponsored the trip for the talented debater.

This experience sparked a movement as the group realized they could make a difference in the community and help other kids in need. AAA members also recognized an opportunity to promote diversity in the community, expand awareness of the contributions of African Americans and other minorities, and begin to build a sense of understanding between cultures and ethnicities.

Martin Luther King, Jr., influenced their mission, and they soon organized an annual MLK Banquet to provide the community an opportunity to learn from prominent African-American leaders. Over the past 15 years, guests have included Dr. Walter Massey, past president of Morehouse College; Pete Miller, former Undersecretary of Energy; Freeman Hrabowski, voted one of TIME magazine's 100 Most Influential People of 2012; and Idaho State Senator Cherie Buckner-Webb.

This year's AAA banquet will feature keynote speaker USAF Capt. Daniel

"Fuzz" Walker, the first African-American pilot qualified to fly the F-22 stealth fighter plane, and grandson of one of the original Tuskegee Airmen.

Ms. Michelle Amos, system engineer for NASA's Perseverance, the 2020 Mars rover, will also deliver remarks over Zoom. Ms. Amos won an All-Star Award at NASA's Women of Color Government and Defense Technology Awards Conference, is the former chairperson of NASA's Black Employee Strategy Team, and is currently a public affairs spokesperson for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

The organization has faced some challenges but has also received generous support from the Idaho Falls community. Many local businesses provide donations and services making the MLK Banquet possible each year. The proceeds from the annual event are used to support their mission to "further the educational, economic, cultural and development growth of the Idaho Falls African American Community."

The Idaho Falls AAA serves to bring people together in times that can feel divisive. I commend the AAA and its membership for its work to help make Idaho Falls a better community.●

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 11:18 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolutions, without amendment:

S. Con. Res. 25. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for the lying in state of the remains of the Honorable Harry Mason Reid, Jr., a Senator from the State of Nevada.

S. Con. Res. 26. Concurrent resolution providing for the use of the catafalque situated in the Exhibition Hall of the Capitol Visitor Center in connection with memorial services to be conducted in the rotunda of the Capitol for the Honorable Harry Mason Reid, Jr., a Senator from the State of Nevada.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to H. Res. 862, resolving that the Clerk of the House inform the Senate that a quorum of the House is present and that the House is ready to proceed with business.