

West at Fort Donelson, Shiloh, Vicksburg, and Chattanooga. After President Lincoln appointed him Lieutenant-General of the Army in 1864, he commanded all Union armies until the conclusion of the war. At Appomattox, Grant prescribed terms of surrender intended to set the stage for postwar reconciliation.

Grant's legacy extends beyond his role in the Civil War. Grant was elected the 18th President of the United States in 1868 and was decisively elected to a second term in 1872, the only two-term President between Abraham Lincoln and Woodrow Wilson. As President, he oversaw the orderly readmittance of States following the Civil War, completing the restoration of the Union by 1871.

An ardent supporter of Reconstruction, President Grant championed the ratification of the 15th Amendment to prohibit discrimination in voting rights on the basis of "race, color, or previous condition of servitude." In 1870, he oversaw the creation of the Department of Justice, essential to the prosecution of the Ku Klux Klan and enforcement of the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution, the "Reconstruction Amendments."

Grant was an advocate for civil rights, endorsing and then signing the Civil Rights Act of 1875 to outlaw racial segregation in public accommodations, schools, transportation, and juries, nearly a century before such protections would be effectively enforced.

And although President Theodore Roosevelt is most often associated with our National Parks, it was President Grant who designated Yellowstone as the first National Park in 1872.

After his presidency, Grant traveled the world and wrote his memoirs. "The Personal Memoirs of Ulysses S. Grant" became a bestseller and garnered lasting critical acclaim, praised by Mark Twain for its "clarity of statement, directness, simplicity, unpretentiousness, manifest truthfulness, fairness and justice toward friend and foe alike, soldierly candor and frankness, and soldierly avoidance of flowery speech."

As I said yesterday on the Senate floor, history has not always been kind to Grant. But as we commemorate his 200th birthday, his legacy is being re-evaluated and his far-reaching impact more fully appreciated. Frederick Douglass eulogized Grant as "a man too broad for prejudice, too humane to despise the humblest, too great to be small at any point." I urge my colleagues to join Senator BLUNT and I in honoring one of Ohio's finest, Ulysses S. Grant, for these remarkable qualities, for his role in preserving the Union of the United States as a general in the Civil War, and for his defense of Reconstruction and Civil Rights as President.

TRIBUTE TO CHRISTIAN BRAUN

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and recognize Christian Braun of Burlington, KS.

Christian was one of the outstanding University of Kansas—KU—players who helped lead the team to their National Championship game victory. He is a fan favorite who was nominated for Academic All-American and an American All-Big 12 First Team honoree in 2020, 2021, and 2022. Braun's former coach Ed Fritz said that what makes him stand out is his honesty. He is not afraid to be quick to praise or hold teammates accountable. I think this quality is what helped KU get to the National Championship and is a great reflection of Kansas values as a whole. His performance in the championship was nothing short of spectacular. He showed great leadership and dedication in getting the team to this win.

I want to congratulate and thank Mr. BRAUN for all the hours he put into practicing and helping form this outstanding team. It takes great dedication and determination to get where he is. The hours spent practicing and perfecting his game helped KU get to this National Championship. This victory will not be forgotten by Kansans—or at the very least in Overland Park where Christian has his own day now after winning this championship. Thank you for all you have done to represent the great State of Kansas. We all thoroughly enjoyed watching Christian play and can't wait to see what he does next. It is my honor to congratulate him, and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this wonderful win and wish him nothing but the best in the future.

TRIBUTE TO ZACH CLEMENCE

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and recognize Zach Clemence, one of the outstanding University of Kansas—KU—players who helped lead the team to their National Championship game victory. Zach, who plays forward for the team, was a highly touted prospect for the Jayhawks coming out of Sunrise Christian Academy in Bel Aire, KS. This is Zach's first year with the Jayhawks, and he ends the season as a National Champion.

I want to congratulate and thank Mr. Clemence for all the hours he put into practicing and helping form this outstanding team. It takes great dedication and determination to get to where he is. No doubt, his effort and energy during games or in practice played a major factor in the KU winning the National Championship. This victory will not be forgotten by Kansans and will go down in history. We thank Zach for all he has done to represent the great State of Kansas. We all thoroughly enjoyed watching KU play this season and certainly can't wait to see what Zach accomplishes in the future. It is my honor to congratulate Zach, and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this wonderful victory and in wishing Zach nothing but the best in the future.

TRIBUTE TO CHRIS TEAHAN

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and recognize Chris Teahan of Leawood, KS.

Chris was one of the outstanding University of Kansas—KU—players who helped lead the team to KU's fourth NCAA Men's Basketball Championship. He is a fan favorite who committed to the Jayhawks as a guard as a walk-on for the team and has made an impact on the program ever since, even earning a spot on the All-Academic Big 12 Second team last year. He currently holds a sports management degree and plans to pursue a graduate degree as he leaves KU basketball as a super-senior and a national champion.

Chris attributes a lot of his success to his mom for pushing him to be the best. He said he looks back on the time they spent together in the gym as special, even if it came in moments he didn't want to be there. She knew he had it in him; he just needed to see it, too. I want to congratulate and thank Mr. Teahan for all the hours he put into practicing and helping form this outstanding team. This victory will not be forgotten by Kansans. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this wonderful success and wish him nothing but the best in the following years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MARY JO MORGAN "MIMI" WEDGEWORTH

• Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, last week, my beautiful mother Mary Jo Morgan Wedgeworth passed out of this world and into the arms of our Lord. She left with all those who were blessed to know her a lifetime of wonderful memories and a legacy of love, friendship, and service.

My mother was a lifelong resident of Laurel, MS. During her youth, she was the 1944 winner of the National 4-H Club Girl Achievement award and the President's Trophy. This was awarded to her at the National 4-H Club Congress in Chicago. She continued to be an active participant in Mississippi 4-H Club programs, serving in numerous leadership roles and always serving as a local 4-H club leader. She served on the Mississippi 4-H Club board and as president of the Mississippi Extension Service Homemakers and FCE Club.

She was a member of First Baptist Church and active in women's programs and Sunday school. She especially loved providing beautiful flower arrangements made with cuttings from her garden for church events.

She was active in the Mississippi Council of Garden Clubs, where she served as president, and the Deep South Garden Club Council as a nationally accredited flower show judge and in the Waynesboro Drive Garden Club. She was known for her entertaining and educational programs on flower-arranging, gardening, and recycling. In

1987, she was honored by Keep America Beautiful with the lifetime achievement award for her exceptional efforts to keep our Nation beautiful. Some of her efforts included working to develop the Avenue of Magnolias at each of Mississippi's interstate State-line entrances and also the garden club wildflower program.

In 1976, she was honored with the Mississippi Volunteer Activist award for the thousands of hours she gave in volunteer service to her community. Indeed, her community activism began early with organizing victory gardens to support America's efforts during World War II.

She was active in the Jones County Republican Party, holding various offices and serving as chairman of both the Jones County Republican Women and the Mississippi Federation of Republican Women.

She was a docent for the Lauren Rogers Museum of Art, where she so enjoyed giving tours and teaching children about the collections at the museum. For decades, she served on the board of the Red Cross and always had helping hands to assist victims of hurricanes and disasters who sought shelter from the storm. During the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, she and my father Hilman welcomed and served meals to hundreds who fled to the Red Cross shelter in Laurel.

Throughout her long life, my mother strung together more than a few pearls of wisdom for the benefit of her 3 children, 7 grandchildren, and 16 great-grandchildren, but the one that rests at the top of my mind is this: "Leave things in better shape than you found them." Whether it was through the flowers in her garden or the gentle encouragement that banished my fear and doubt, my mother took her own words to heart every day of her life. I will miss her terribly, but I find comfort and inspiration when I remember that the world she left behind for me is a far more beautiful place today than it was when she made her grand entrance 97 years ago.●

TRIBUTE TO MIKE DEVRIES

● Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today I have the distinct honor of recognizing Mike DeVries of Fergus County as Montanan of the Month for his dedication to serving his community and his courage during the Denton fire last December.

Mike joined the volunteer fire department shortly after moving to Denton with his family in 2004 and has been loyal to the department and community ever since, serving as chief for 11 years. On December 1, 2021, Mike's love of his community and resolute leadership was on full display. As the West Wind fire tore through the town of Denton, Mike acted swiftly to maintain incident command and ensure the safety of his firefighters and members of the Denton community.

As Montana suffered a terrible fire season in 2021, Mike not only coordi-

nated aid and resources, he showed care and compassion to his fellow residents of Denton and the surrounding area. He met with folks who were impacted by the fires and connected personally with all of the local firefighters and community members who showed up to help.

Serving as the Denton fire chief is just one of the ways Mike gives back to his community. He is also on the elder board of the Denton Bible Church and has served several terms on the town council. As a volunteer fire chief, he has spent countless hours training, traveling, and managing the department. His son Joel says that Mike is held in high regard by other firefighters as he works to build relationships between Denton and surrounding departments.

While Mike is quick to give credit to his crew, he deserves recognition for his leadership during the 2021 fire season, loyalty to the Denton Fire Department, and compassion for his community.

Keep up the great work, Mike. You make Montana proud.●

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

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.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:45 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 812. An act to direct the Secretary of State to develop a strategy to regain observer status for Taiwan in the World Health Organization, and for other purposes.

S. 3059. An act to amend the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 to provide for a periodic transaction reporting requirement for Federal judicial officers and the online publication of financial disclosure reports of Federal judicial officers, and for other purposes.

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

H.R. 496. An act to oppose violations of religious freedom in Ukraine by Russia and armed groups commanded or otherwise supported by or acting on behalf of Russia.

H.R. 923. An act to support the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of the Republic of Georgia, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3344. An act to prioritize the efforts of and enhance coordination among the United

States agencies to encourage countries in Central and Eastern Europe to improve the security of their telecommunications networks, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4133. An act to authorize appropriations for the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative, enhance the United States-Caribbean security partnership, prioritize disaster resilience, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4693. An act to advance targeted and evidence-based interventions for the prevention and treatment of global malnutrition and to improve the coordination of such programs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5796. An act to amend title 35, United States Code, to establish a competition to award certificates that can be redeemed to accelerate certain matters at the Patent and Trademark Office, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6089. An act to clarify that section 107 of the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act applies sanctions with respect to unmanned combat aerial vehicles following a 2019 change by the United Nations providing additional clarity to the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms.

H.R. 6930. An act to authorize the confiscation of assets subject to United States jurisdiction of certain foreign persons, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7311. An act to direct the Secretary of State to develop and submit to Congress a strategy and implementation plan outlining United States efforts to counter the malign influence and activities of the Russian Federation and its proxies in Africa, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7314. An act to require the Secretary of State to submit to Congress a report on the People's Republic of China's support to the Russian Federation with respect to its unprovoked invasion of and full-scale war against Ukraine, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7372. An act to amend the Ukraine Freedom Support Act of 2014 to require the President to establish a semiconductor supply chain working group in response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine and submit reports to Congress on potential future disruptions to the supply chain.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 496. An act to oppose violations of religious freedom in Ukraine by Russia and armed groups commanded or otherwise supported by or acting on behalf of Russia to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 923. An act to support the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of the Republic of Georgia and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 3344. An act to prioritize the efforts of and enhance coordination among United States agencies to encourage countries in Central and Eastern Europe to improve the security of their telecommunications networks, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 4133. An act to authorize appropriations for the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative, enhance the United States-Caribbean security partnership, prioritize disaster resilience, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 4693. An act to advance targeted and evidence-based interventions for the prevention and treatment of global malnutrition and to improve the coordination of such programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.