

Michael will be sorely missed by the Senate, where he has been a pillar of the Foreign Relations Committee staff. USAID will benefit greatly from Michael's service, and I have no doubt that he will continue to serve the American people well. I wish him great good luck as he embarks on this new chapter.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, had there been a recorded vote, I would have voted no on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 1137, Travis LeBlanc, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board for a term expiring January 29, 2028. (Reappointment).

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF SPECIAL OLYMPICS WYOMING

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of Special Olympics Wyoming, an organization that has made a profound difference in the lives of many Wyoming citizens.

In October, Special Olympics Wyoming will celebrate its 50th anniversary held in conjunction with its annual State Fall Tournament in Casper.

Special Olympics was founded in 1962 by Eunice Kennedy Shriver. It began in Maryland as a summer camp for youth with intellectual disabilities. Rosemary Kennedy, Eunice's sister, had an intellectual disability and was the inspiration for Eunice. By 1968, Special Olympics had become a worldwide sensation. Over 1,000 participants competed in the first International Special Olympics Games in Chicago.

Special Olympics Wyoming was established 10 years later in 1972 by Helen and Lloyd Wampler. Their first event was the Wyoming Summer Games at Natrona County High School, where 215 athletes competed in track and field or swimming.

Special Olympics Wyoming offers year-round athletic and sports training for youth and adults who have an intellectual disability. They provide "opportunities to develop physical fitness skills, express courage, experience joy and participate in the sharing of talents, skills and friendship with their families, friends, other Special Olympics athletes and the community."

As the Wyoming athletes strive to meet their athletic goals, their participation and success within the program accentuates why Special Olympics Wyoming was started. Today, there are roughly 1,600 active athletes throughout Wyoming who participate in 16 different sports.

Special Olympics Wyoming hosts five annual statewide events that promote healthy competition, refine athletic skills, and build friendships statewide. These events include the State Winter Games, State Summer Games, Summer Sports Classic, Equestrian Show, and the State Fall Tournament.

Former Special Olympics Wyoming CEO, Priscilla Dowse, is an exceptional example of this type of dedication. During her 44-year involvement in the program, Dowse more than tripled the number of athletes, expanded the unified partners from 70 to 525, and increased fundraising efforts from \$15,000 to \$186,000 with the partnership from Wyoming law enforcement.

Her commitment to Special Olympics Wyoming led her to travel internationally and incorporate different training and leadership programs in an effort to improve Special Olympics Wyoming. Dowse described Special Olympics Wyoming as "... a place that individuals with intellectual disabilities had a place to shine, to be successful, to have fun and laugh. And I was mesmerized."

Since Dowse's retirement, the organization has continued to grow under the leadership of Jen Haines. As Dowse said "if you put a team together, there's almost nothing they can't do." Jen's unwavering commitment will be a strong asset as the organization continues to thrive.

The mission of Special Olympics Wyoming would not be possible without the resolute dedication of their staff members, coaches, volunteers and mentors contributing their time and expertise to the athletes. Current Staff and Board Members are:

Jennifer Haines—CEO & President
Tara Short—Vice President of Development
Bobby Casey—Vice President of Programs
Laura Kelly—Director of Program Services
Cathy Bisiar—Director of Law Enforcement Torch Run
Christine Rodriguez—Office Administrator
Erin Gamroth—Marketing & Communications Coordinator
Molly Blomstrom—Office Assistant
Jessica Purdum—Director of Unified Champion Schools
Karen Beddoes—Area I Director
Chrissy Bowns—Area II Director
Marsha Dial—Area III Director
Carrie Pilcher—Area IV Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Vice-Chair: Carolyn Griffith, the City of Casper (retired)
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Kerry Namken, Platte Valley Bank
Lisa Foutz, Fremont County School District #1
Phil Grabrick, Gillette WY
Taryn Blackett, Natrona County SD #1

Jen Haines, President & CEO (ex-officio)

Tess Robinson, Casper Senior Center—Athlete Representative

It is an honor for me to rise in recognition of this significant milestone for Special Olympics Wyoming. The

impact and opportunities Special Olympics Wyoming has created for people living with intellectual disabilities is incredible. Bobbi joins me in extending our congratulations to Special Olympics Wyoming on their 50th anniversary.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING PHIL HANCEFORD

• Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I rise to pay my respects to Phil Hanceford, a tireless and broadly respected advocate for public land conservation. Phil unexpectedly passed away on August 14, 2022.

Phil served more than 15 years as an attorney, policy expert, and conservation director at The Wilderness Society—TWS—in Denver, CO. He began his career with an internship at TWS while a student at the University of Colorado School of Law. Across a distinguished, 15-year career, Phil played a significant role in protecting some of the most important public lands in the West, from Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments, to conservation areas in the Pacific Northwest, the Mojave Desert, Nevada, and Colorado.

Phil was an expert in land management planning, specializing in the management of national monuments and other Bureau of Land Management—BLM—conservation lands. He inspired and mentored countless individuals at TWS and across the conservation community, contributing his deep expertise and humble spirit to all who sought his advice or support. Over the years, his guidance helped shape a new cohort of effective advocates for America's public lands.

Phil's greatest accomplishments include helping to create the National Landscape Conservation System; the adoption of the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan that conserved wildlands and promoted renewable energy development across nearly 11 million acres in southern California; the restoration of Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments that protects over 3 million acres of stunning desert wilderness in southern Utah; and the establishment of Browns Canyon National Monument in Colorado.

Phil was a champion of the BLM and earned the lasting respect of Bureau staff across the country for his warmth and expertise. He often went out of his way to connect with employees across the organization and fiercely advocated for getting staff into the field to see firsthand the places they worked to protect.

Phil grounded his work in humor, kindness, determination, and grace. He genuinely believed in the promise of public lands as a legacy for everyone—an issue that could bring Americans together regardless of where you lived or which political beliefs you held. Phil's

distinguished career was cut too short, but he leaves behind a legacy that will endure for generations to come. I extend my deepest condolences to Phil's wife Keenan and their young daughter Hazel, along with the rest of Phil's family, friends, and colleagues.●

RECOGNIZING DIXWELL AVENUE CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

● Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize Dixwell Avenue United Congregational Church of Christ as it celebrates 202 years of spiritual leadership in New Haven, CT. I am honored to join Dixwell Congregational Church's congregation and supporters in celebrating the church's bicentennial, 2 years later than planned due to the COVID-19 pandemic—just the latest obstacle the church has overcome in its long and remarkable history.

Dixwell Avenue United Congregational Church of Christ is the oldest African-American Congregational UCC church in the world. It was founded in 1820, when Black residents in New Haven were unwelcome at the city's traditional churches. Seeking the freedom to worship, a group of 22 Black New Haven residents persuaded a Yale student and abolitionist named Simeon Jocelyn to conduct religious services with them at his home. Together they formed the city's first Black congregation and, after meeting house to house for 4 years, began renting a small church on Temple Street in New Haven in 1825.

In 1837, the Rev. Dr. James W. C. Pennington became the first Black pastor of Dixwell Avenue United Congregational Church of Christ. After fleeing from slavery, the Yale-educated Pennington became internationally renowned as a skilled orator. Under his leadership and the pastorate of his successor, the Rev. Amos G. Beman, the church became one of America's most eminent civil rights organizations and a cradle of the abolitionist movement. Not only did the church serve as a stop on the Underground Railroad, but many of its members were active on the Amistad Committee, which supported the defense in the landmark 1841 case *United States v. The Amistad*, which resulted in the U.S. Supreme Court granting the enslaved people on board the ship their freedom.

The church moved to its current home on Dixwell Avenue in 1886 and continued to work for the social betterment of the community. In the early 20th century, the church donated the land on which the original Dixwell Community House was built, ensuring that generations of area residents had access to enriching education and recreation, as well as vital social services. One of the central figures in the church's recent history is the civil rights activist Rev. Dr. Edmond R. Edmunds, who led the church for nearly 40 years beginning in 1959. Under his

pastorate, the congregation established daycare and afterschool programs that encouraged academic achievement in the Dixwell neighborhood. He also helped initiate the Dixwell Housing Development Corporation which, for many years, provided affordable housing to local, low-income families.

The church's current pastor, the Rev. Dr. Frederick "Jerry" Streets has carried forth the congregation's tradition of serving its community. Reverend Streets has fostered civil and constructive conversations about race in New Haven, developed faith-based rehabilitation programs for individuals with substance abuse disorders, and initiated summer STEM education programs for Dixwell neighborhood youth, amongst other good deeds.

I have had the privilege of visiting Dixwell Avenue United Congregational Church of Christ on a number of occasions and have always been welcomed as one of the congregation. This kindness, free from judgement, has helped countless people in need over the past two centuries.

As Dixwell Avenue United Congregational Church of Christ celebrates its bicentennial plus two this September, I applaud them on their extraordinary contributions—not just to the city of New Haven and State of Connecticut, but to our great Nation. I hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating Dixwell Avenue United Congregational Church of Christ on 202 years of committed worship and service to their community.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:17 p.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. 169. An act to amend title 17, United States Code, to require the Register of Copyrights to waive fees for filing an application for registration of a copyright claim in certain circumstances, and for other purposes.

S. 2771. An act to designate the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in San Angelo, Texas, as the "Colonel Charles and JoAnne Powell Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic".

S. 3157. An act to require the Secretary of Labor to conduct a study of the factors affecting employment opportunities for immigrants and refugees with professional credentials obtained in foreign countries.

S. 3895. An act to extend and authorize annual appropriations for the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom through fiscal year 2024.

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

H.R. 820. An act to establish the New Philadelphia National Historic Site in the State of Illinois as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1456. An act to amend the Peace Corps Act to reauthorize the Peace Corps, better support current and returned volunteers, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3034. An act to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide an additional place for holding court for the Western District of Washington, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4330. An act to maintain the free flow of information to the public by establishing appropriate limits on the federally compelled disclosure of information obtained as part of engaging in journalism, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6353. An act to authorize the National Service Animals Monument Corporation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6734. An act to amend the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 to reauthorize the volunteer services, community partnership, and refuge education programs of the National Wildlife Refuge System, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7181. An act to amend the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 to direct the Secretary of Transportation to seek to provide for the posting of contact information of the national human trafficking hotline in the restrooms of each aircraft, airport, over-the-road bus, bus station, passenger train, and passenger railroad station operating within the United States, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7566. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to increase the punishment for human trafficking in a school zone, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7618. An act to designate the Kol Israel Foundation Holocaust Memorial in Bedford Heights, Ohio, as a national memorial.

H.R. 7698. An act to designate the outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Ventura, California, as the "Captain Rosemary Bryant Mariner Outpatient Clinic".

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 5:13 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 8656. An act to designate the clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Mishawaka, Indiana, as the "Jackie Walorski VA Clinic".

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 820. An act to establish the New Philadelphia National Historic Site in the State of Illinois as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 3034. An act to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide an additional place for holding court for the Western District of Washington, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 4330. An act to maintain the free flow of information to the public by establishing appropriate limits on the federally compelled disclosure of information obtained as part of engaging in journalism, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 6353. An act to authorize the National Service Animals Monument Corporation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 7181. An act to amend the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 to direct the