

date of the filing of this report, that the Secretary provide a bipartisan briefing on the status of completion of the project.

The Port Fourchon, Belle Pass Channel, Louisiana, navigation project, authorized in WRDA 2020, features as a key component 100 percent beneficial use disposal of project dredge material. The managers are encouraged that progress has been made between the Corps and the non-Federal sponsor in designating a beneficial use disposal site that will meet National Economic Development goals, as well as satisfy the local community's need for beneficial use disposal at impacted coastal areas. The Corps is expected to provide the non-Federal sponsor with a revised Project Management Plan (PMP), delineating tasks and costs associated with addressing remaining conditions contained in the Port Fourchon, Belle Pass Channel, Louisiana, authorization, including a revised dredge material disposal plan that will designate the beneficial use disposal site. As such, the managers direct the Secretary to negotiate and complete a PMP that is satisfactory to the Secretary and the non-Federal sponsor, including the selection of a beneficial use disposal site agreed upon by the non-Federal sponsor, as soon as possible.

#### 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF UNITED STATES AND MEXICO BILATERAL RELATIONS

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, on December 12, 1822, Jose Manuel Zozaya y Bermudez presented his credentials as Mexico's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to U.S. President James Monroe, which established formal relations between our two countries.

On December 12, 2022, the United States and Mexico celebrated the 200th anniversary of our bilateral relations. Our relations with Mexico remain strong and vital, based on mutual respect as sovereign states. Mexico remains one of the United States' closest and most valued partners. Our bilateral relationship directly benefits the lives and livelihoods of millions of Americans and Mexicans, whether the issue is trade and economic development, educational and cultural exchange, citizen security, control of illicit drugs, migration, human trafficking, entrepreneurship, innovation, environmental protection, climate change, or public health.

The scope of relations between the United States and Mexico extends beyond diplomacy. It encompasses extensive commercial, cultural, educational, and familial ties. Our countries share a 2,000-mile border with 47 active land ports of entry. Hundreds of thousands of people cross the border legally each day, strengthening people-to-people ties and deepening our integration. In addition, an estimated 1.6 million U.S. citizens live in Mexico, and nearly 40 million persons of Mexican descent reside in the United States. The U.S.-Mexico Interparliamentary Group has been held regularly since 1961 to bring together legislators from both countries to discuss priority issues and identify ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation. Although our countries share a great number of ties, without a

doubt, our peoples represent our strongest, deepest and most lasting bond, which will unite us forever. The bicentennial celebration serves as an opportunity to honor our personal ties and our shared history, while affirming our commitment to build a brighter future for our two nations.

As the United States and Mexico reflect on 200 years of bilateral relations, we must celebrate the greatness of our peoples and commit to seize the opportunities ahead of us. The bicentennial allows us to reflect on our historical ties and grants us an opportunity to build on our shared priorities: economic prosperity, clean energy, security, migration, and our mutual understanding of one another.

The United States and Mexico have enduring connections encompassing all aspects of life. As we address our shared challenges and work together for a prosperous future, we celebrate this era of cooperation and respect. This anniversary allows us to reflect on the past and more importantly, to chart a course for the future.

#### TRIBUTE TO ADMIRAL CHARLES A. RICHARD

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate ADM Charles "Chas" A. Richard on his retirement from the U.S. Navy. I would also like to give my warm regards to his wife Lisa and children Chase, Ally, and Emily for supporting him throughout his years of selfless service to our country.

Born in Decatur, AL, Admiral Richard is a dedicated officer who represents the best our Nation's military has to offer. I have had the privilege of knowing the admiral since he took over for Gen. John E. Hyten at U.S. Strategic Command in 2019.

As the ranking member on the Senate Armed Services Committee's Strategic Forces Subcommittee, we have direct oversight over STRATCOM's mission areas. STRATCOM also happens to be located in Nebraska, the State I proudly represent in the U.S. Senate. For these reasons, I have had the opportunity to work closely with Admiral Richard, and I have come to appreciate his thoughtful insights and brilliant strategic mind. I know many in this Chamber have come to rely on him and his expertise, especially those of us working on nuclear deterrence.

Like other distinguished STRATCOM commanders, he can say with pride, "We deterred great power conflict and nuclear war" during one of the most challenging national security environments of the last six decades. For any STRATCOM commander, that is truly their greatest accomplishment.

Admiral Richard has had a decisive impact on U.S. Strategic Command. He spearheaded the creation of the Risk of Strategic Deterrence Failure Assessment. This assessment distilled a decade's worth of analytics down to a set of fundamental questions and answers

that were vital to reevaluating our strategic posture and reemphasizing the importance of strong deterrence. You only need to look at Russia's continued war of aggression against Ukraine to understand the value of such analysis.

Given STRATCOM's mission is a global one, Admiral Richard never let one region of the world overshadow the serious threats posed by another.

With respect to the Indo-Pacific, Admiral Richard worked tirelessly to alert our country to the scope and speed of China's military buildup, including Beijing's breathtaking expansion of nuclear capabilities. He has been the canary in the coal mine, warning us all about the growing threats we face and the role nuclear deterrence must play in the 21st century.

His foresight wasn't just restricted to the rise of China. From day one, Admiral Richard understood the need to address our electronic warfare capabilities. Under his leadership, STRATCOM created the first ever doctrine on Joint Electromagnetic Spectrum Operations, and he helped lead the development of NATO's electronic warfare doctrine. Under his watch, STRATCOM accomplished more on electronic warfare in the last three years than in the previous 20.

He also always understood the importance of America's nuclear triad, and he fought to ensure it remained our top defense priority. Overseeing the modernization of all three legs of the nuclear triad is a herculean task, and Admiral Richard has done a remarkable job working with the services and the National Nuclear Security Administration to keep these programs on track.

STRATCOM has also made huge strides in the modernization of our Nuclear Command, Control, and Communications—NC3—architecture over the last 3 years. He oversaw the creation of the state-of-the-art NC3 Intelligence Fusion Center and the first-ever NC3 enterprise dashboard with critically needed quick-status viewing. Here, too, the admiral broke records. I am told that more was accomplished in the last 3 years than in the previous 10 in the modernization of our nuclear arsenal.

Admiral Richard's leadership weathered challenging times. And his steady hand during the pandemic was a masterclass in true leadership. As our Nation and our world were grappling with the first global pandemic in over a century, he kept STRATCOM on the right track. In just 4 short days, he oversaw the largest shift to telework in STRATCOM's history, from just a few individuals to nearly 1,400+ people. And many of them had to conduct telework at a classified level.

If you ask Admiral Richard about any of his many accomplishments, he will avoid the spotlight and heap praise on others. But he was the leader, and STRATCOM is all the better for his leadership.

When I learned Admiral Richard was retiring, I knew we would be losing a

great leader. I also knew that we would be losing a great man, and I knew I would be losing a friend. I learned something every time I met with him, and I appreciated his thoughtful insights on the many threats our country faces. His clear-eyed, straightforward, and honest advice to the Senate Armed Services Committee directly led to stronger, safer policies to protect our Nation being signed into law.

After over 40 years of exemplary service, Admiral Richard's retirement is well-earned. I wish him and Lisa the very best, and I thank him on behalf of myself and the people of Nebraska for his dedication and service to our country.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO AL JAEGER

• Mr. CRAMER. Mr. President, I want to honor the 30 years of distinguished service of a remarkable North Dakota public servant who is retiring from office at the end of December.

Alvin Jaeger took office as North Dakota's 14th secretary of state in January 1993, when I was the executive director of the North Dakota Republican Party. That year, he and newly elected Governor Ed Schafer became the second and third Republicans to be voted in to a State office after several years of Democrats occupying them. Today, all State office holders are Republicans, the significance of which is not lost on neither Al nor me.

A Beulah, ND, native, Al came to the Secretary of State's office having previously served in the North Dakota National Army Guard and having been a business analyst for the Mobil Oil Corporation, a Fargo real estate broker, and a high school teacher in western North Dakota.

In his 30 years in office, Al has brought wisdom, intelligence, and dedication to everything he has undertaken. He has served on the State Board of University and School Lands, the North Dakota Emergency Commission, and the State Historical Society of North Dakota, making his participation in the work of these boards a top priority. Al has also been active in the National Association of Secretaries of State and most recently was a member of its executive committee.

When first elected, Al oversaw the development of the office's first website and subsequently supervised the ever evolving modernization and digitization of services and information that we now expect to be found online. He led in updating North Dakota's election code and developing more sophisticated tracking of election results. He has become the "go-to" authority on issues related to election security and uniform voter identification. And he and his staff have set a high standard for election integrity in North Dakota not enjoyed by many other States.

One of the projects Al championed and which will be among the greatest legacies of his years in office is the North Dakota Blue Book. This publication traces back to the Territorial Legislature in 1887, 2 years before North Dakota became a State, with early titles more commonly referred to as "legislative manuals or handbooks." They were put out sporadically until Al came to office in 1993, when he committed to resuming a biannual publication of the book. Over these past 30 years, each book has provided a comprehensive chronology of all current and State office holders, a summary of significant laws passed during that biennium's legislative session, as well as historical features and data about the State. With each edition providing information about North Dakota not readily available elsewhere, the value of the commitment by the Secretary of State's office to regularly publish these books cannot be overstated.

When Al Jaeger retires on December 31, he will become the second longest serving secretary of state in North Dakota, overseeing and codifying the laws of 15 legislative sessions. It is going to take a long time for the impact of his years of service to be adequately measured. On behalf of all North Dakotans, I thank him for his years of service as secretary of state. I congratulate him on his well-earned retirement and wish him many years of health and happiness in the future.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:02 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. 4017. An act to designate the United States courthouse located at 111 South Highland Avenue in Jackson, Tennessee, as the "James D. Todd United States Courthouse", and for other purposes.

S. 5060. An act to redesignate the Federal building located at 212 Third Avenue South in Minneapolis, Minnesota, as the "Paul D. Wellstone Federal Building", and for other purposes.

At 5:39 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. 558. An act to establish a national integrated flood information system within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 789. An act to repeal certain obsolete laws relating to Indians.

S. 2607. An act to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the former hostages of the Iran Hostage Crisis of 1979-1981, highlighting their resilience throughout the unprecedented ordeal that they lived through and the national unity it produced, marking 4 decades since their 444 days in captivity, and recognizing their sacrifice to the United States.

S. 5229. An act to direct the Joint Committee of Congress on the Library to remove the bust of Roger Brooke Taney in the Old Supreme Court Chamber of the Capitol and

to obtain a bust of Thurgood Marshall for installation in the Capitol or on the Capitol Grounds, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 7077) to require the United States Fire Administration to conduct on-site investigations of major fires, and for other purposes.

#### MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 5244. A bill making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2023, extending various health programs, 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-5803. A communication from the Branch of Administrative Support Services, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Updating Entries for Two Species on and Removing Johnson's Seagrass From the Lists of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants Wildlife and Plants" (RIN1018-BG87) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5804. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances (21-1.5e)" ((RIN2070-AB27) (FRL No. 8582-01-OCSP)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5805. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Addition of Certain Chemicals; Community Right-to-Know Toxic Chemical Release Reporting" ((RIN2070-AK26) (FRL No. 5927-02-OCSP)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5806. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Renewable Fuel Standard Program: Canola Oil Pathways to Renewable Diesel, Jet Fuel, Naphtha, Liquefied Petroleum Gas, and Heating Oil" ((RIN2060-AV55) (FRL No. 9075-02-OAR)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5807. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "NPDES Small MS4 Urbanized Area Clarification" ((RIN2040-AG27) (FRL No.