

cybersecurity measures and ballot curing, discrediting arguments that expanding access to the vote enables election fraud. In fact, Vermont has been on the forefront of election security, identifying threats that have ultimately led to the strengthening of systems nationwide.

In addition to defending democracy through sound election administration, Jim has prioritized good government while secretary of state. For example, he and his team oversaw the transition from a paper system to an electronic system, posting more records and information online. While this received fewer headlines than the office's election work, it has been critical to ensuring transparency and public access. Similarly, Jim's work to reduce red tape in the office of professional regulation means that Vermont businesses and professionals are better served, while still protecting the public.

At a time when democracy is under threat and distrust in government is pervasive, Jim has given Vermonters faith and hope for the future. He has shown what accessible elections and good government can and should look like, and for that, he has my sincere gratitude. Vermont is indeed a better place and Vermonters are better off thanks to Secretary of State Jim Condos. I wish Jim and Annie all the best for his well-deserved retirement. ●

#### TRIBUTE TO BETH PEARCE

● Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, I rise today to honor Beth Pearce of Barre, VT. Beth is retiring as Vermont State Treasurer after more than 45 years in public service, including nearly two decades serving Vermonters.

Beth was born in West Springfield, MA, and grew up in a civically and politically engaged household. After serving in a variety of government positions throughout the Northeast, Beth became Vermont's deputy State treasurer in 2003. In 2011, she was appointed Vermont State Treasurer and, despite being new to electoral politics, she was elected in own right in 2012, and was re-elected to four additional terms.

Despite her electoral success, Beth has long considered herself more of a policy person than a politician, something that is evident in her approach in the State treasurer's office. She has taken her role as a public servant seriously and has been a careful steward of public funds. Though this has sometimes put her at the center of challenging issues, Beth's integrity has earned her widespread respect.

As Beth herself has described, her office's work "is not just numbers on spreadsheets, but a reflection of [their] commitment of service to, and respect for, everyone in Vermont." This approach is just one of the things that sets Beth apart. While she has relished the day-to-day work and embraced being described as "breathtakingly boring," Beth has never lost sight of the immense responsibility of the

State treasurer's office to positively impact the lives of everyday Vermonters. Whether by making sure that individuals and towns received the aid they were entitled to following the devastation caused by Tropical Storm Irene, that people with disabilities could save and invest through the VermontABLE program, or that State employees could retire with dignity, Beth has never forgotten that it is people—not numbers—at the center of her work.

To my mind, Beth represents the best of public service. She will long be remembered by all who worked with her for her competence, empathy, humor, and, of course, her unwavering love of the Boston Red Sox. And to all those Vermonters who would not otherwise know the role of the treasurer's office, she will be remembered for her tireless work toward a Vermont where everyone has the opportunity for a lifetime of financial stability and well-being. Vermont is indeed a better place, and Vermonters are better off, thanks to Beth Pearce. I join Beth's friends, family, and fellow Vermonters in wishing her all the best in her well-deserved retirement. ●

#### REMEMBERING WILL RAAP

● Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, I rise today to honor the Will Raap, one of Vermont's most visionary leaders, who passed away on December 12.

Will was born in Fremont, CA, and spent time in Findhorn, Scotland, where he met his future wife Lynette. Will and Lynette married in 1977 and, in 1981, moved to Vermont so Will could continue his work with the Garden Way Company and Gardens for All. Two years later, Will cofounded Gardener's Supply Company to enable everyone to experience the benefits that come from gardens and gardening, including people with disabilities, seniors, and beginning gardeners.

From the earliest days of the company, Will's business model was built around the "triple bottom line" of people, planet, and profits. A clear example of his commitment to the people that made up Gardener's Supply happened in these early years, when Will gave himself a pay cut in order to give a valued data entry employee a raise. It was also in these early years of Gardener's Supply that Will began transitioning the company into an employee-ownership structure. This move was rooted in his belief that everyone doing the work should share in the benefit, not just those at the top. Will's investments in his employees, both on the individual level and on the whole, have proven powerful and successful. In 2009, Gardener's Supply reached 100-percent employee ownership, and that young data entry employee, Cindy Turcot, is now president and CEO of Gardener's Supply and has become a national leader of employee ownership.

Never short of energy, ideas, or vision, in 1987 Will brought his passion

for improving community, agriculture, and the environment to an aging dairy farm and an unofficial landfill in the heart of Vermont's largest city of Burlington. As mayor of Burlington at this time, I was glad to work with Will on this important effort. During this time, Will came to us in city government to request a \$7,000 loan to buy a tractor and start a municipal yard and food waste composting project managed by Gardener's Supply employees. To get this much-needed project off the ground, Will and volunteers cleaned up the neglected piece of land and turned it into what is now known as the Intervale Center. Today, the Intervale is national model for urban agriculture, food access, and local food system development and successful partnerships between for-profit and non-profit organizations. It is also a great recreational resource for the Old North End and the entire greater Burlington area. It is home to Vermont's largest community supported agriculture—CSA—farm, a tree nursery, a food hub and distribution center, community gardens, hiking trails, event spaces, and a number of established farm enterprises.

Will was also a driving force behind Vermont's innovative Farm-to-Plate initiative, as well as the Vermont Dairy/Water Quality Collaborative. Most recently, Will worked to turn an iconic failed dairy farm in Charlotte, VT, into an entirely new way to think about agriculture in our State. Using the farm's land and facilities, Will created Earthkeep Farmcommon and the Earthkeep Farmers Collective. Today, the former dairy farm is being used by young entrepreneurs to grow and malt grains, raise shrimp, grow berries, make carbonated beverages, and produce baked goods, to name just a few of the businesses in operation there.

Will's lifetime of accomplishments reflected his style of thinking big and his ability to surround himself with teams that were eager to make those big ideas a reality. Will Raap represents the best of Vermont's entrepreneurial spirit. There is no doubt that Will will be remembered as a force for good and a leader whose lasting mark on Vermont will be not about himself, but about all those whose lives have been made better for his vision.

All Vermonters can honor Will's memory by asking his three favorite questions: "What's next?" "How can we make a difference?" and, "Are we doing enough?" Vermont is a better place and Vermonters are better off thanks to Will Raap's many contributions. ●

#### TRIBUTE TO JAMES W. RANE

● Mr. SHELBY. Madam President, I am pleased to speak today about the profound impact of Mr. James W. Rane, a fellow Alabamian with many contributions to our great country and my home State of Alabama.

Jimmy has had an impressive career as a renowned businessman. Jimmy is

the chairman, president, and CEO of Great Southern Wood Holdings, a company with a diverse portfolio operating in the areas of building supplies production, manufacturing and distribution, sawmill operations, and transportation and logistics through trucking operations.

Among the family of companies is Great Southern Wood Preserving, the producers of YellaWood pressure-treated pine products. In 1970, after acquiring a single facility with a few pieces of equipment in his hometown, Jimmy Rane started his company. Today, Great Southern Wood Preserving and its subsidiaries operate in 37 distribution locations from the Florida Keys to Texas to Canada, as well as much of the Caribbean and Latin America, and part of the European Union, Mediterranean region, and China.

Born in 1946, Jimmy grew up in Henry County in southeast Alabama. He attended Auburn University where he received a bachelor of science degree in business administration and graduated from the Cumberland School of Law at Samford University. Later, he successfully completed multiple business related programs at the Harvard Business School.

Jimmy is actively involved in many civic and educational organizations. He serves on the board of trustees of Auburn University and his local church and is on the board of directors of the Henry County Historical Group. He is also an honorary member of the Auburn Letterman's Association. From 1973–1977, Jimmy Rane served as a Henry County judge and is a member of both the Alabama Bar Association and the American Bar Association. In 2009, he was inducted into the Alabama Independent School Hall of Fame. Jimmy was named by the Alabama Broadcasters Association as its Citizen of the Year in 2014. Additionally, he was named by the Dothan Landmarks Foundation, Inc., as the recipient of its 2017 Heritage Award, and he was recognized by the Boy Scouts of America Greater Alabama Council in March 2018 as a Heart of the Eagle honoree. He serves on the Alabama Heritage Foundation board of directors and is a member of the International Institute of Strategic Studies.

A long-time advocate for the positive role of sports in developing character and leadership lessons, Jimmy was selected by the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame as their 2018 Distinguished American Sportsman and was inducted into the organization during an April 2018 ceremony. In May 2018, he received the Johnny Stallings Award, recognizing his work on behalf of those with special needs.

Additionally, as the president of his foundation, Jimmy actively works to raise money to fund college scholarships for deserving students. More than 560 students have received college scholarships since its inception in 2000.

Jimmy's business acumen and his commitment to giving back to his

community are to be commended. I appreciate all that he has done on behalf of Alabama and the many ways he has shared his success with others. Jimmy will leave Alabama better than he found it, and for that, I am grateful.●

## MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

### ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 2:17 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled bill:

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 enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

At 3:51 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that pursuant to section 732(a) of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement Implementation Act (Public Law 116-113), and the order of the House of January 4, 2021, the Speaker appoints the following individual on the part of the House of Representatives to the Independent Mexico Labor Expert Board, to fill the existing vacancy thereon: Mr. Rudy Ernesto Gonzales of Oakland, California.

The message further announced that pursuant to section 2(b)(2) of the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Museum of Asian Pacific American History and Culture Act (Public Law 117-140), and the order of the House of January 4, 2021, the Speaker appoints the following individuals on the part of the House of Representatives to the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Museum of Asian Pacific American History and Culture: Dr. Jay Jie Xu of San Francisco, California and Mr. Dennis Cheng of New York, New York.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 803(a) of the Congressional Recognition for Excellence in Arts Education Act (2 U.S.C. 803(a)), and the order of the House of January 4, 2021, the Speaker appoints the following individual on the part of the House of Representatives to the Congressional Award Board: Mrs. CHERI BUSTOS of Galena, Illinois.

### ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, December 21, 2022, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

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.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. SCHATZ, from the Committee on Indian Affairs:

Report to accompany S. 3168, A bill to amend the White Mountain Apache Tribe Water Rights Quantification Act of 2010 to modify the enforceability date for certain provisions, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 117-285).

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. CARDIN:

S. 5330. A bill to protect stateless persons in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR:

S. 5331. A bill to reform the Federal Election Commission's enforcement processes and related provisions under the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR:

S. 5332. A bill to protect elections for public office by providing enhanced security for the infrastructure used to carry out such elections, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. BRAUN:

S. 5333. A bill to establish a voluntary compliance assistance initiative at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission regarding the usage of employment tests and selection procedures by employers; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. PORTMAN:

S. 5334. A bill to establish best practices for the Federal use of facial recognition technology, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR:

S. 5335. A bill to reform congressional redistricting; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 5336. A bill to reauthorize the Prematurity Research Expansion and Education for Mothers who deliver Infants Early Act; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. 5337. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for supportive services for very low-income veteran families to include former members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN:

S. 5338. A bill to cap the emissions of greenhouse gases through a requirement to purchase carbon permits, to distribute the proceeds of such purchases to eligible individuals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. 5339. A bill to support research about the impact of digital communication platforms