

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL D. QUICKEL

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I pay tribute to Mike Quickel, the U.S. Senate Finance Committee's policy director, who is leaving Congress after more than 25 years of devoted service.

One of the things that eases our jobs in the Senate is knowing we have solid people working steadily and earnestly beside us on behalf of the great people we represent. Idaho and our country have had that for decades with Mike Quickel. Since 2000, when he came to work in my office, after working more than a year as staff assistant for the U.S. House Committee on Education and the Workforce Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, he has consistently supported Idahoans and the important work we do here in the Senate on behalf of the American people.

After little more than a year of serving as a legislative correspondent, Mike was quickly promoted to serve as my tax and budget adviser, and he has generally served in this capacity through multiple positions since. As senior policy adviser, he staffed my positions on the Senate Finance and Budget Committees. His responsibilities included developing well-defined strategies for various tax legislative efforts. He also helped lead the bipartisan Senate Finance Committee Task Force on Savings and Investment. The task force crafted retirement savings proposals that were later enacted into law as part of the SECURE Act in 2019. Every American worker should have the opportunity to save for a secure retirement, and Mike's work on this legislation has helped make it easier for Americans to do so.

His steadiness, dependability, and strong grasp of policy and its practical effects also saw him tasked with critical, but under the radar, responsibilities like editing constituent response letters. I always have known I can count on him for the small and big tasks at hand. He proved this when he helped develop fiscal reform and debt reduction proposals when I served on the bipartisan Simpson/Bowles Commission in 2010. I cannot mention that commission without also noting that our country would now be on better fiscal footing if Congress had fully enacted the fiscal reforms Mike worked on more than a decade ago.

But, back on point, when I began leading the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs as ranking member and chairman, Mike came with me and served as policy director for the committee. During this time, he worked tirelessly on drafting and negotiating the historic enactment of the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, TCJA. This law, which is probably the achievement he is most proud of during his time in the Senate, lowered tax rates for all Americans, ensured American job-creators could better compete and bring jobs back to our country and led to the strongest economy in many of our lifetimes prior to the pandemic.

He also successfully led bipartisan efforts to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank in 2019, as well as Senate confirmation of its chairman and board members. The Export-Import Bank had operated without congressional authorization and a Senate-confirmed chairman for several years, and Mike was instrumental in fixing this lapse. Additionally, he supported the successful bipartisan enactment in 2018 of the Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief and Consumer Protection Act. This law has enabled financial institutions to better serve their customers and communities, while maintaining safety and soundness and important consumer protections.

When I became ranking member of Senate Finance in 2021, I once again asked Mike to come with me and serve as policy director for the committee. Throughout this time, he has continued to dependably and professionally contribute to consequential legislation and policy initiatives, including his work to strengthen retirement security through the enactment of the SECURE 2.0 law in December 2022. This law expanded opportunities for Americans to increase their retirement savings and improve workers' long-term financial well-being. He has also been instrumental in successfully protecting the TCJA from attempts to undo its tax reform benefits.

In addition to his policy expertise and keen knowledge of the Senate, Mike has helped and supported others. He has mentored countless young staffers and even set up annual Thanksgiving dinners for staff, many of whom were far away from home during the holidays. He is known as being loyal to everyone he has worked with over the years.

Mike has been a steady, unassuming, and strong influence in the Senate. He is quiet but thorough. When I think of Mike, I think of God's instruction in the Bible verse James 1:19-20. He is truly quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to anger. He listens carefully before framing the task or problem to fix that is weighed against his significant experience, knowledge, and know-how. He listens and reasons first and then acts prudently and never impulsively. This has been invaluable, as he has helped shape tax, retirement and economic policy that has had far-reaching benefits for our country. It will take a great deal of time to get used to not having Mike as a central part of my staff, but I wish him all the best. He has more than earned more time with his lovely family—wife Meg and son Davey—that I am hopeful his departure from Washington, DC, will afford him.

Thank you, Mike, for your 25 years of dedicated, sound, and measured service to our country.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR STEVEN VEAZEY

● Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and congratulate CSM Steven Veazey on his upcoming retirement from the Arkansas Army National Guard after 44 years of distinguished military service to our great Nation.

CSM Veazey had an exceptional career in the Arkansas National Guard. For the past 12 years, he has served as the senior enlisted adviser to the adjutant general and Arkansas Governor on all issues regarding the welfare, readiness, morale and proper utilization and progress of the Arkansas enlisted force.

After enlisting in the Army in 1979, CSM Veazey would go on to serve in various duties and leadership roles as an infantryman. He deployed in support of the U.S. peacekeeping mission in Bosnia and twice in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. As the senior enlisted leader of the Joint Forces of the Arkansas National Guard, his integrity, character and transparent leadership built an enduring trust with the 8,000 enlisted members under his command. His passion for building a trained, ready, and resilient force will have lasting positive impacts on the Arkansas National Guard, the servicemembers, and their families.

As the ranking member of the appropriations subcommittee responsible for ensuring our Armed Forces and their families have the infrastructure and facilities to support their needs, I met with CSM Veazey as he encouraged congressional support to strengthen National Guard priorities and military readiness. Arkansas can be proud of his advocacy and leadership that integrally contributed to the U.S. ability to maintain our military superiority.

On behalf of the U.S. Senate and a grateful nation, I extend my deepest appreciation to CSM Veazey and his family for their many years of exemplary military service and sacrifice. I wish him nothing but the very best in the future.●

TRIBUTE TO AIRMAN EARL SMITH

● Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, we will never fully understand—or know—the sacrifices our servicemembers make to keep us safe, both at home and abroad, like Airman First Class Earl Smith of Lincoln, AL. His story of heroism went untold for more than 50 years because of security reasons. His bravery and quick action prevented what could have been the worst nuclear disaster in history.

Raised on a farm in Hatton, AL, Airman Smith and a friend decided on a whim to enlist in the U.S. Air Force after visiting a recruiting office in their local community. Always up for an adventure, Airman Smith decided to enroll in bomb disposal school after enlisting. He recalls his instructor's

warning on the first day that you are only allowed one chance to mess up—because just one mistake could be fatal. Nine months after completing his training, his skills were put to the ultimate test while stationed at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base in North Carolina.

On January 24, 1961, Airman Smith woke up to a midnight call telling him to report to the base as soon as possible. Without any protective gear or fully strapping up his boots, he arrived to the base, where he was then whisked away to the site of a B-52 plane crash 15 miles away. The plane was transporting two nuclear bombs reported to be 250 times more powerful than those used on Japan during World War II. Both bombs had fallen out of the plane during the crash, creating what is now reported as a 100-percent kill zone for surrounding communities.

Upon arriving to the scene, he immediately noticed one of the bombs was activated. Despite a general ordering him not to touch the bomb until receiving permission from atomic support, Airman Smith knew that time was not on their side. Thankfully, he acted quickly to disengage the bomb, saving countless American lives.

Airman Smith now proudly travels across Alabama speaking to local groups about his military service, which has now received national and global recognition. If you travel to Eureka, NC, there is a marker that says, “Nuclear Mishap—widespread disaster averted.” This is all thanks to Alabama’s extraordinary hero—Earl Smith—who I am proud to recognize as May’s “Veteran of the Month.”●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Kelly, 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

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

At 3:02 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled joint resolution:

H.J. Res. 39. Joint resolution disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of Commerce relating to “Procedures Covering Suspension of Liquidation, Duties and Estimated Duties in Accord with Presidential Proclamation 10414”.

The enrolled joint resolution was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

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-1202. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting additional legislative proposals that the Department of Defense requests be enacted during the first session of the 118th Congress; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1203. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, a report relative to the issuance of an Executive Order in order to expand the scope of the national emergency with respect to Sudan declared in Executive Order 13067 of November 3, 1997; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1204. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, HHS Notice of Benefit and Payment Parameters for 2024” (RIN0938-AU97) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 25, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1205. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting additional legislative proposals that the Department of Defense requests be enacted during the first session of the 118th Congress; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1206. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting a legislative proposal entitled “To establish the Office of Health Security in the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1207. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the second transmittal of legislative proposals that support the President’s Fiscal Year 2024 budget request for the Department of Homeland Security; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1208. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting additional legislative proposals that the Department of Defense requests be enacted during the first session of the 118th Congress; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1209. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-87, “Use of Force Review Board Temporary Act of 2023”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1210. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-88, “Commission on the Arts and Humanities Acting Executive Director Temporary Amendment Act of 2023”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1211. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-89, “Certificate of Assurance Moratorium Extension Temporary Amend-

ment Act of 2023”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1212. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-90, “Reverse Mortgage Insurance and Tax Payment Program Extension Temporary Amendment Act of 2023”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1213. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-91, “Fidelity in Access to Government Communications Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2023”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1214. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-67, “General Obligations Bonds and Bond Anticipation Notes for Fiscal Years 2023-2028 Authorization Act of 2023”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1215. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-82, “Woodson Way Designation Act of 2023”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1216. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-83, “Dedication of a Portion of W Street, S.E., S.O. 16-24322 Act of 2023”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1217. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-84, “Bishop Clarence Groover Way Designation Act of 2023”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1218. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-85, “Benjamin Secundy, Sr. Way Designation Act of 2023”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1219. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-86, “Reed Street Realignment Act of 2023”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1220. A communication from the Secretary of the Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Policy Statement of the Federal Trade Commission on Rebates and Fees in Exchange for Excluding Lower-Cost Drug Products” received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. PETERS, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, without amendment:

S. 108. A bill to require a guidance clarity statement on certain agency guidance, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118-19).

By Mr. PETERS, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with amendments:

S. 824. A bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish a national