

with the internet. I think there are more reporters covering the Hill in one way or another now than there were back then.

Q: Your next job was with Leahy, and you worked for him for 26 years. What moments stand out?

A: After the plane hit the Pentagon on 9/11, we [evacuated the Capitol] and walked to my house a few blocks away. It was the senator and a few other senior aides, and all we could do was watch television to try to find out what was happening. This was before everyone had BlackBerries.

He tended to have people stay longer on staff than other senators do. And he also had a reputation for attracting good people, like John Podesta, who went on to be Bill Clinton's chief of staff, and George Tenet, who went on to be CIA director.

It was very rewarding to work with him on what I call the white hat projects, like the Innocence Protection Act and the landmine crusade.

I've been on very few CODELs, but the first one I went on was to Ottawa, where Lloyd Axworthy, the foreign minister of Canada, picked up on Leahy's legislation—the first in the world to ban the export of landmines. And Leahy still pesters every president to sign the Mine Ban Treaty. Some recent Democratic presidents have inched toward that, but there's always a big carveout for South Korea.

Q: How do you feel about the direction things are going on the Hill?

A: I feel, as Sen. Leahy does, as he said in his farewell speech, that the Senate in some ways is broken. It was never perfect—he entered at a time when segregationists were running committees, and he was part of the reform effort that Walter Mondale led to bring the filibuster threshold down from 67 to 60.

But now we have the rancor and the bumper sticker politics, with people playing for a soundbite. Senators don't spend as much time with each other and each other's families as they used to, and the filibuster is abused.

Q: You're still playing press secretary, after all these years. What are your own thoughts on where Congress is headed?

A: When I was in ninth grade, our English class learned what propaganda is and how to look at sources. So I'm kind of shocked at how little media literacy there is these days. I think people need to be more discriminating consumers of news. I'm concerned about anti-science bias and media literacy.

Q: What's next for you?

A: My dad is 92 years old, so I'll spend more time with him. And I'll do some writing.

I've enjoyed the work. I'm a generalist by nature, and being a press secretary, you have the opportunity to learn something new every day. I feel so grateful for this experience that I had. This has been a dream job with a dream boss, working on issues that really made a difference. And I'll never tire of seeing the Capitol lit up at night.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING QUENTIN "Q" WILLIAMS

• Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, I rise today with a heavy heart to pay tribute to Quentin "Q" Williams, a dedicated public servant, advocate, and friend to many. Tragically, State Representative Williams passed away on January 5, 2023, at the age of 39. He will be remembered for his commitment to Connecticut and passion for helping others.

A lifelong resident of Middletown, CT, Q was killed in an automobile accident just one day after being sworn in for a third term as State representative, a beautiful life cut tragically short, a bright light extinguished.

Raised by a single mother in Middletown, Q accomplished so much in his short career. After graduating from Middletown Public Schools, he earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Bryant University, and a master of public administration from Villanova University—excellent preparation for a professional career dedicated to serving others.

Q began his career in community banking in Hartford before pursuing nonprofit management. In 2012, he was named executive director of the Middletown Downtown Business District and launched the community's first "Middletown Restaurant Week," enhancing the community and economic vitality of the city's Main Street. Q served as director of advocacy and policy for Excellence Community Schools, a charter school network, and co-founded EquityCT, an education nonprofit. He was also active in many charitable and service organizations with a generous spirit that served him well in public service.

In 2019, Q was elected as the first Black State legislator from Middletown. As State representative, Q took great pride in championing social and racial equality, human rights, and accessible housing. He supported youth programs to help the next generation prepare for successful futures. There is no telling where Q's energy and passion could have taken him and how much good he would have continued to do for his community and the state of Connecticut.

At two recent church ceremonies, in Middletown and Bloomfield, friends and colleagues of Q's spoke of his love and loyalty, his jovial spirit, and deeply genuine generosity. At the time of his death, Representative Williams was looking forward to serving as the new house chair of the labor and public employees committee. Over the last several weeks, at ceremonies honoring him, I have spoken to his wonderful family. I have been among scores of people paying their respects to Q—a stirring testament to his positive impact.

My wife Cynthia and I extend our deepest sympathies to Q's family during this difficult time, particularly to his wife Carrissa and mother Queen. I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring Q's life and legacy, both large and lasting.●

RECOGNIZING RED OAK FABRICATION

• Ms. ERNST. Madam President, in my new position as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I have the honor of recognizing an outstanding Iowa small business that ex-

emplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. It is my privilege to recognize Red Oak Fabrication of Red Oak, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week for the week of January 30, 2023.

As you will often see across our great State, small businesses and families go hand-in-hand in Iowa. Red Oak Fabrication of Montgomery County is no different. Red Oak Fabrication was founded in 1913 under the name Pike Machine Shop. A short decade later, management would decide to adopt the name that still stands today: Red Oak Fabrication. In 1928, Ted Fort began working at Red Oak as one of three employees. Through hard work and persistence, he purchased half interest in the company in 1944 and eventually purchased the remaining to own full interest in 1948. Watching their father's growing success within the business, it was not long before Ted's sons Bill and Jack, both veterans of World War II, decided to join the fold in 1946 and 1947 respectively. Bill was responsible for starting the outside sales of oxygen and welding supplies, while Jack joined the sales team. Ted's two sons proved to be great additions to the company, especially as the Fort family's involvement in Red Oak Manufacturing extended beyond the second generation.

The third generation of the Fort family working at Red Oak Fabrication began in 1978 when Ted's grandson Jeff Fort started as a route truck driver. Jeff eventually took over the business in 1992 and made a big splash in 1993 when he purchased a plasma table, the company's first. Jeff's son, Jacob Fort, started in 2001 following his graduation from college, ushering in the fourth generation of Forts. Jacob got his start working in indoor and outdoor sales. Jacob left the company in 2005, but returned in 2014 and now handles business development and purchasing, leading the activities at the north location. Jordan Fort, another one of Jeff's sons, began working at Red Oak Fabrication as a freshman in high school in 2004. He worked at his family's business every summer until his sophomore year of college. He now handles the powder coating as well as purchasing. In 2022, Justin Fort joined the business working in operations following a decade of work in cutting equipment manufacturing and production welding equipment sales.

You can find Red Oak Fabrication in three locations in Montgomery County, a north, south, and central location. The central location is where the company started and is where the machining centers, as well as a Carhartt store is located. The north facility provides powder coating, plate rolling, manual and robotic welding, while the south location has their plate processing equipment. Starting as a two truck operation, Red Oak Fabrication has grown to include three plasma tables, two laser tables, and one water jet table. Clearly, a strong sense of business acumen runs in the Fort family as Ted's children, grandchildren, and even

great-grandchildren have continued on their forefather's long road of growth and innovation.

I think we can all agree that small businesses are the backbone of America and families are the heart. It gives me great pleasure to see Ted Fort's hard work transcend generations to provide vital manufacturing services to my home county and statewide. Therefore, I want to commend the Fort family for their hard work and commitment to keeping Red Oak Fabrication a family business, even as they continue to grow their enterprise, and achieve the American dream. Congratulations to the Fort family and the entire team at Red Oak Fabrication. I look forward to seeing your continued growth and success in Iowa.●

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

At 10:55 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 bill and joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 139. An act to require Executive agencies to submit to Congress a study of the impacts of expanded telework and remote work by agency employees during the COVID-19 pandemic and a plan for the agency's future use of telework and remote work, and for other purposes

H.J. Res. 7. Joint resolution relating to a national emergency declared by the President on March 13, 2020.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 139. An act to require Executive agencies to submit to Congress a study of the impacts of expanded telework and remote work by agency employees during the COVID-19 pandemic and a plan for the agency's future use of telework and remote work, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.J. Res. 7. Joint resolution relating to a national emergency declared by the President on March 13, 2020; to the Committee on Finance.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 214. A bill to allow reciprocity for the carrying of certain concealed firearms.

S. 219. A bill to provide that Members of Congress may not receive pay after October 1 of any fiscal year in which Congress has not approved a concurrent resolution on the budget and passed the regular appropriations bills.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 259. A bill to ensure transparent and competitive transportation fuel markets in order to protect consumers from unwarranted price increases.

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-335. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Rimsulfuron; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 10478-01-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 26, 2023; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-336. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Malic Acid; Tolerance Exemption" (FRL No. 10494-01-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 26, 2023; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-337. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fluridone; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 10504-01-OCSPP) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 19, 2023; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-338. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of an officer authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of vice admiral in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777a; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-339. A communication from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Strengthening Organic Enforcement" (RIN0581-AD09) (Docket No. AMS-NOP-17-0065) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 26, 2023; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-340. A communication from the Chairman of the Armed Forces Retirement Home, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a real estate lease transaction; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-341. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of

a rule entitled "Civil Monetary Penalty Inflation Adjustment" (RIN0790-AL58) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 19, 2023; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-342. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Expanding TRICARE Access to Care in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic" (RIN0720-AB85) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 19, 2023; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-343. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Reorganization of Defense Acquisition Statutes" (RIN0750-AL72) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 19, 2023; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-344. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement" (RIN0750-AL58) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 19, 2023; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-345. A communication from the Associate General Counsel, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, four (4) reports relative to vacancies in the Department of Agriculture, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 26, 2023; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-346. A communication from the Director of Public Affairs and Congressional Relations, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of the Comptroller's 2022 Annual Report to Congress; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-347. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Sustainment), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a plan of action for any use of the authorities available in Title III of the Defense Production Act of 1950 to establish or enhance the domestic production capability for microelectronic technologies and related technologies; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-348. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13581 with respect to significant transnational criminal organizations; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-349. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13882 with respect to Mali; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-350. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13566 with respect to Libya; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-351. A communication from the Chair and President of the Export-Import Bank,