

As a member of the Kansas Lions Club for almost 40 years, I have witnessed the hard work and dedication these members put forward to serve others. At its core, the Lions Club's mission is to empower communities through acts of service, and it has touched countless lives. Their willingness to devote their time, talents, and treasure to helping others is inspiring. Over the years, I have enjoyed attending Lions Clubs meetings in Stockton to visit with folks about the issues important to them. I will miss attending the Stockton Lions Club but want to take time to remember this community organization. The dedicated members of the club demonstrated that, together, they could make a difference in their community.

Whether by sponsoring the annual Free Watermelon Feed during the Rooks County Fair or taking students to the Cosmosphere in Hutchinson, the Stockton Lions Club made an incredible impact. Thank you to the Stockton Lions Club members for bettering Kansas.●

RECOGNIZING WATCO COMPANIES

● Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the creation of Watco Companies. Watco is a Pittsburg, KS, based transportation and logistics company that demonstrates the very best of Kansas work ethic.

Following the deregulation of the railroad industry in October 1980, founder Dick Webb saw a niche available to serve customers in the rail industry. With no line of credit, Dick moved his family to Louisiana, purchased a locomotive, and began an industrial railcar switching operation. The first customer in Louisiana was Boise Cascade, a paper manufacturer, which is still a Watco customer today.

A company that started with only one locomotive in 1983 has now grown to nearly 5,000 employees across North America and Australia and is known for its world-class management of short-line railroads, ports, and dependable transportation and supply-chain services. Dick Webb laid the foundation for the growth Watco has experienced today. He set the core values of the company—humility, integrity, and respect for the customer—which has translated in Newsweek magazine naming Watco as one of the top 100 most loved places to work in the U.S. in 2022 and worldwide in 2023.

Dedication to serving the customers' needs drives Watco's business model and, over the years, has contributed to Watco's expansion. In Kansas, there are more than 2,000 miles of short-line rail alone, and for the last 40 years, Watco has been an integral mover of Kansas agricultural commodities such as grain and feed products, industrial products such as chemicals and liquid petroleum gasses, cement, coal, steel, and plastics.

Kansas providers rely on rail transportation to move their products to

markets across the region. Without efficient and varied transportation options, a versatility innate to Watco, producers are at a significant disadvantage. Last June, a \$375 million soybean crushing facility opened in Cherryvale, KS, and the South Kansas & Oklahoma Railroad, owned and operated by Watco, provides services to the facility, connecting it to the class 1 rail network.

I have been proud to support Watco in their applications to the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvement—CRISI—Grant Program, not only because of their contributions to Kansas businesses, but also the larger impact to the Pittsburg community. Watco and the Webb family have made it a point to give back to local schools and universities, utilizing their platform to contribute graciously to the community in numerous philanthropic ways.

Companies like Watco exhibit the excellence of the Kansas workforce and a commitment to delivering quality service to their customers. I want to congratulate Watco on 40 years of excellence and reliability and look forward to 40 more years of delivering on their promises.●

FERNANDO VALENZUELA'S JERSEY RETIREMENT

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise today as a proud, lifelong Los Angeles Dodgers fan to recognize the achievements and legacy of Fernando "El Toro" Valenzuela, whose jersey will soon be retired by the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Fernando Valenzuela stunned the baseball world, captured the hearts of millions of Californians, and inspired Little League baseball players, future Major League Baseball Hall of Famers, and Mexican Americans across the country to dream big.

The youngest of 12 children, Valenzuela was born and raised in the small town of Etchohuaquila, in Sonora, Mexico. His parents Avelino and Maria were poor farmers who worked the land with their children. Valenzuela learned to play baseball from his older brothers and started pitching professionally in Mexico at the age of 17. Discovered by legendary Dodgers scout Mike Brito, Valenzuela soon made his Major League debut at the age of 19. In 1980, his first season, he pitched in relief in 10 games and did not surrender a single earned run.

The 1981 season saw the cultural phenomenon of "Fernandomania," which brought one of the best stretches of pitching in Major League Baseball history. He was on the mound for the Dodgers as their opening day starting pitcher and proceeded to win his first eight starts—at that time, the longest such streak since World War II. He finished the season with 11 complete games, 8 shutouts, and a 2.48 ERA. His sensational pitching brought packed crowds to Dodger Stadium as he cap-

tered the hearts of Los Angeles' Mexican-American community, and brought record crowds to every stadium he pitched in across the country.

During the deciding game 5 of the 1981 National League Championship Series against the Expos, Valenzuela locked into a grueling pitching duel for over eight innings and helped the Dodgers win the National League pennant. In game 3 of the 1981 World Series, Valenzuela pitched a complete game against the Yankees and jumpstarted a four-game Dodgers winning streak on their way to winning the World Series title.

On a personal note, as a kid growing up playing Little League baseball in the San Fernando Valley, I remember watching Fernando pitch, his iconic wind-up with his leg sweeping up chest high, his quick glance toward the heavens, and suddenly, El Toro would deliver a devastating screwball.

Valenzuela would go on to pitch for the Dodgers for 11 seasons, play for several other MLB teams, and even pitch in the Mexican Pacific League when he was nearly 44 years old. He ended his career as a World Series Champion, a six-time All-Star, a two-time Silver Slugger winner, and a Gold Glove winner. He also became the first player—and remains the only player—ever to win the Rookie of the Year and Cy Young awards in the same season for his remarkable 1981 season. And today, he remains part of the Dodgers organization as the color commentator for the team's Spanish language television broadcast.

More than 40 years later, Fernandomania lives on. Valenzuela continues to bring immense joy and pride to the Mexican-American community in Los Angeles and around the country. I am proud that the Dodgers will be retiring Valenzuela's No. 34 jersey, and I am proud to recognize his many years of dedication to the Los Angeles community and for inspiring generations of Latinos to pursue their dreams and be champions in their own right.

So now, enshrined in Dodger Stadium alongside names like "Robinson," "Koufax," "Drysdale," "Hodges," and "Snider," finally, a new number will hang forever—34, for Valenzuela.

REMEMBERING EUGENE "GUS" NEWPORT

● Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I wish to commemorate the life of Gus Newport, a long-time champion for human rights and advocate for racial and economic justice, who passed away on June 17, 2023.

Gus will be remembered as a true progressive activist, having worked as the mayor of Berkeley, CA, as a member on the leadership committee of the National Council of Elders, the vice president from the U.S. to the World Peace Council serving on the United Nations Committee against Apartheid and the Committee on the Question of

Palestine, as a member of the Unity Reform Commission, and the board president for the Middle East Children's Alliance, among others.

I first met Gus when I was mayor of Burlington, VT, and I am proud to have called him my friend for the past 40 years. In addition to his work, Gus' family was important to him. As he said many times, his mom was his first role model, and the aspiration for his work came from his grandmother. At an early age, Gus immersed himself in local, national, and global politics.

Throughout his life, Gus worked alongside civil rights leaders and political activists including Malcolm X, Angela Davis, and Danny Glover. His accomplishments span from groundbreaking political initiatives and the implementation of critical community economic development programs, to global solidarity.

As mayor, Gus led the city of Berkeley to divest from apartheid South Africa, making them the first city in the U.S. to do so. Additionally, he created a domestic partner benefits program for LGBTQ+ families and childcare initiatives to aid working women. Gus also worked on affordable housing programs, rent control, policing reforms, environmental protections, and community development.

In whatever task he took on, Gus worked with his whole heart and a deep sense of solidarity for humanity. As Gus said, "We need to come back to what Martin [Luther King Jr.] called Building the Beloved Community—helping communities address education, incarceration, mental and physical health in an integrated and systematic way. If we want a better future for the next generation, we need to build a movement that is strategic and constant!"

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Gus Newport for his tireless work on behalf of our communities and citizens.

May the memory of Gus Newport be a blessing.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Stringer, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As 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.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:11 a.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, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3395. An act to direct the Chairman of the Federal Maritime Commission to seek to enter into an agreement with a federally funded research and development center to evaluate foreign ownership of marine terminals at the 15 largest United States container ports, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3399. An act to study the security of the Soo Locks and effects on the supply chain resulting from a malfunction or failure of the Soo Locks, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 4:07 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 bills:

H.R. 423. An act to take certain land located in San Diego County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Pala Band of Mission Indians, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3672. An act to designate the clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Indian River, Michigan, as the "Pfc. Justin T. Paton Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic".

H.R. 4004. An act to approve and implement the Agreement between the American Institute in Taiwan and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States regarding Trade between the United States of America and Taiwan, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

At 5 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that pursuant to section 201(a)(2) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, and upon recommendations by the House and Senate Budget Committees, the Speaker and the President pro tempore of the Senate hereby jointly appoint the following individual to the Congressional Budget Office for the term expiring January 3, 2027: Dr. Philip Swagel, Director.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 3395. An act to direct the Chairman of the Federal Maritime Commission to seek to enter into an agreement with a federally funded research and development center to evaluate foreign ownership of marine terminals at the 15 largest United States container ports, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 3399. An act to study the security of the Soo Locks and effects on the supply chain resulting from a malfunction or failure of the Soo Locks, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

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-1734. A communication from the Secretary of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "FINAL REGULATIONS: Improving Income Driven Repayment for the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program and the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program" (RIN1840-AD81) received in the Office of the President pro tempore of the Senate; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1735. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Improve Tracking of Workplace Injuries and Illnesses" (RIN1218-AD40) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2023; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1736. A communication from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Tart Cherries Grown in the States of Michigan, New York, Pennsylvania, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wisconsin; Assessment Rate Increase" (Docket No. AMS-SC-22-0068) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2023; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1737. A communication from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Washington Apricots; Termination of Marketing Order" (Docket No. AMS-SC-21-0061) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2023; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1738. A communication from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Preserving Trust Benefits Under the Packers and Stockyards Act" ((RIN0581-AE01) (Docket No. AMS-FTPP-21-0015)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2023; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1739. A communication from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "United States Standards for Soybeans" (Docket No. AMS-AMS-22-0083) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2023; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1740. A communication from the Chairman, Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Corporation's annual report for calendar year 2022; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1741. A communication from the Chairman, Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Corporation's annual report for calendar year 2022 received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1742. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), transmitting, pursuant to law, a semiannual report entitled, "Acceptance of Contributions for Defense Programs, Projects, and Activities; Defense Cooperation Account" and a semiannual listing of personal property contributed by coalition partners; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1743. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of the continuation of