

limited access to resources, fluctuating economic conditions, and shifting State demographics. Under Carl's guidance, Barton has expanded its online learning options, generated diverse workforce training opportunities, and expanded services to Kansas military communities. In fact, Carl was integral in keeping the 1st Infantry Division stationed in Kansas, as his testimony to the Kansas Governor Military Council on behalf of Kansas higher education for The Big Red One proved persuasive to the 2015 Base Realignment and Closure Commission.

With these accomplishments, it is unsurprising that Carl received exceptional recognition from the State of Kansas. He served an unprecedented 3 years as chairperson for the system council of Kansas Community College Presidents, where he oversaw the state-wide implementation of a public higher education course articulation process, the introduction of a public higher education reverse transfer model, and the development of reverse transfer for both community colleges and the private college system. Thanks to Carl, these actions have eased administrative processes for Kansas students and administrators, making life simpler for everyone.

Carl will officially retire from Barton Community College on June 30, 2024, after over 17 years of service to the people of Kansas. I now ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the distinguished career of Dr. Carl Heilmann, as well as thank him for all his work on behalf of the state of Kansas and Barton Community College.●

#### RECOGNIZING MID KANSAS COOPERATIVE

• Mr. MARSHALL. Madam President, I rise today to recognize the Mid Kansas Cooperative and honor them for their reception of the esteemed Retailer of the Year Award, presented by the Agricultural Retailers Associations, ARA.

I am extremely proud that the Mid Kansas Cooperative, a pillar of prosperity in central Kansas since 1965, has received ARA's extremely prestigious award this year. Known locally as MKC, the co-op is headquartered in Moundridge and offers a complete line of products, programs, and services citizens throughout the State of Kansas. With more than 600 employees, 11,000 members, and 8,000 customers through a wholly-owned subsidiary, MKC specializes in grain, agronomy, energy, feed, and risk management. The farm communities that Mid Kansas Co-op serves have a long history of fostering innovations in grain production, and MKC continues that tradition by utilizing technology like drones and autonomous robots for precision agriculture management tactics.

White pickup trucks bearing the MKC logo dot the plains from planting to harvest, and their specialists aid Kansas producers in making agronomic decisions all year long. While many co-

ops provide goods and services as a complement to agriculture producers, MKC goes above and beyond through a robust college internship program and investments back into the very communities that their branches inhabit through scholarships and sponsorships.

In combining the two facets of a productive workforce and expert knowledge, MKC maintains its position as an innovative steward of Kansas farmland, an exceptional provider of customer service, and a leader in local communities across a great portion of the State of Kansas. This commitment to excellence and innovation in the agricultural sector made MKC a more than worthy winner of the Retailer of the Year Award. They truly embody their motto of "Shared growth. Shared success."

I now ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating MKC president and CEO Brad Stedman, along with all other MKC member-owners and employees, for being named the Agricultural Retailers Association's 2023 Retailer of the Year.●

#### RECOGNIZING THE MISSOURI HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

• Mr. SCHMITT. Madam President, I rise today to honor a group of Missouri's finest high school football teams. Last week, there was a lot of memorable football that was played for State trophies. From Lamar High School's dramatic comeback to Marionville High School's dominant display and Archie Whirlwind's victory, each game encapsulated the spirit of determination and excellence. These championships not only showcased remarkable individual and team performances but also underscored the deep-rooted passion for football in Missouri. The stories of these teams—their struggles, their strategies, and their victories—are a testament to the celebrated history of high school football in the State.

On December 2, 2023, the Lamar High School football team achieved a remarkable 35–28 overtime victory against Valle Catholic (12–2) in the Class 2 Show-Me Bowl. The Lamar Tigers, with a season record of 13–1, overcame a challenging 21–0 first-quarter deficit to clinch their ninth State championship. Quarterback Alex Wilkerson, alongside a formidable defense that conceded only one touchdown after the first quarter, played pivotal roles. Wilkerson's 25-yard touchdown kickstarted the overtime, and the Tigers' defense sealed the win by preventing Valle Catholic from gaining any first downs in OT.

On December 1, 2023, Marionville High School's football team won the class 1 state championship, defeating North Platte (12–2) with a decisive 29–0 score. The team's fast, physical playing style was evident right from the start. Their opening drive was 14 plays that led to a touchdown by Hugh Eaton. Head coach Padden Grubbs commended

his team's tough, physical approach and their resilience against challenging weather conditions. For the seniors, this victory marked the culmination of an impressive undefeated 14–0 record this season.

On November 30, 2023, the Archie High School Whirlwinds (14–0), in the eight-man State title game, won 40–26 over the Worth County High School Tigers (12–2). Archie Whirlwinds' quarterback, Briar McIntire, scored an impressive five rushing touchdowns. This strong performance by the team's quarterback was coupled with a dominant offensive and defensive line. Despite Worth County's brief resurgence, Archie maintained control, which was led by McIntire. The game ended with Worth County scoring 12 unanswered points to make it a two-score game; however, their attempt at comeback was thwarted by the Whirlwind's strong defense.

In closing, the Missouri high school football championships of 2023 were an impressive combination of talent, teamwork, and tenacity. Each team, regardless of victory, demonstrated a remarkable blend of skill, strategy, and sportsmanship. These teams have etched their names in the annals of Missouri's sports history. Congratulations to all the teams that competed in these games, and a special congratulations to Lamar, Marionville, and Archie for their outstanding accomplishments in the 2023 State championships.●

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:20 p.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, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 542. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve certain programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs for home- and community-based services for veterans, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1547. An act to direct the Secretary of Transportation to conduct a study on the costs and benefits of commuter rail passenger transportation involving transfers, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3848. An act to make certain improvements in the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs relating to homelessness, and for other purposes.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 1547. An act to direct the Secretary of Transportation to conduct a study on the costs and benefits of commuter rail passenger transportation involving transfers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 3848. An act to make certain improvements in the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs relating to homelessness, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

## 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-3001. A communication from the Chief Privacy Officer, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Social Security Number Fraud Prevention Act Final to Congress”; to the Committees on Finance; and Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3002. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Deputy Under Secretary, Department of Treasury received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 30, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3003. A communication from the Senior Regulatory and Policy Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Medicare and Medicaid Program; Disclosures of Ownership and Additional Disclosable Parties Information for Skilled Nursing Facilities; Medicare Providers’ and Suppliers’ Disclosure of Private Equity Companies and Real Estate Investment Trusts” (RIN0938-AU90) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3004. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Updated Lists of Jurisdiction Under Deposit Interest Rules” (Rev. Proc. 2023-36) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 29, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3005. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Notice: Revised Timeline Regarding Implementation of Amended Section 6050W(e)” (Notice 2023-74) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 29, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3006. A communication from the Chief Human Capital Officer, National Archives and Records Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Archivist of the United States, National Archives and Records Administration received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 27, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3007. A communication from the Chief Human Capital Officer, National Archives and Records Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Archivist of the United States, National Archives and Records Administration received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 27, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3008. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, the President’s Pay Agent, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the extension of locality based comparability payments; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3009. A communication from the Director of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, Department of Defense,

transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Federal Acquisition Regulation; FAR Case 2023-019, New Designated Country—North Macedonia” (RIN9000-AO67) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 27, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3010. A communication from the Director of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2024-01, Introduction” (FAC 2024-01) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 27, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3011. A communication from the Director of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2024-01, Technical Amendments” (FAC 2024-01) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 27, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3012. A communication from the Director of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2024-01, Small Entity Compliance Guide” (FAC 2024-01) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 27, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3013. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Retirement: Members of Congress and Congressional Employees” (RIN3206-AO42) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 30, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3014. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “FEDVIP: Extension of Eligibility to Certain Employees on Temporary Appointments and Certain Employees on Seasonal and Intermittent Schedules; Enrollment Clarifications and Exceptions for Changes in Enrollment” (RIN3206-AN91) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 30, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3015. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fair Chance to Compete for Jobs” (RIN3206-AO00) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 30, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3016. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Noncompetitive Appointment of Certain Military Spouses” (RIN3206-AO57) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 30, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3017. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Government Ethics, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office’s Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3018. A communication from the Director, National Science Foundation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Uniform Resource

Locator (URL) for the Foundation’s fiscal year 2023 Agency Financial Report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3019. A communication from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency’s Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3020. A communication from the Chair, Board of Governors, United States Postal Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Postal Services’ Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2023 through September 30, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3021. A communication from the Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission’s Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3022. A communication from the Board Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration’s Semiannual Report of the Inspector General and the Semiannual Management Report on the Status of Audits for the period from April 1, 2023 through September 30, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3023. A communication from the Chair of the Administrative Conference of the United States, transmitting, a report of the recommendations adopted by the Administrative Conference of the United States at its 79th Plenary Session; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3024. A joint communication from the Chairman and the General Counsel, National Labor Relations Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of Inspector General Semiannual Report for the period of April 1, 2023 through September 30, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3025. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of Inspector General’s Semiannual Report and the Management Response for the period of April 1, 2023 through September 30, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3026. A communication from the Chairman of the Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board’s Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2023 through September 30, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3027. A communication from the Director of Financial Management, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department’s Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3028. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department’s Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2023 through September 30, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

## EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Ms. STABENOW for the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.