

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO CAITLIN CLARK

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I am proud to recognize University of Iowa's Caitlin Clark, a true generational talent, for her historic achievements in women's collegiate basketball. Clark is a West Des Moines native.

In the Hawkeyes' February 15, 2024, matchup against the Michigan Wolverines, Clark became the alltime leading scorer in NCAA women's basketball history. She clinched the record in the opening 2 minutes with three baskets, including a logo 3-point shot. She put up 49 total points that game in the Carver Hawkeye Arena, a new school and personal best.

Less than 3 weeks later, during her last regular season game with the Hawkeyes, Clark surpassed "Pistol" Pete Maravich's 1970 record for highest number of points scored in the NCAA. To date, Clark has racked up 3,685 career points, more than any Division I player in history, men's or women's.

Clark's success is undoubtedly the dividend of her hard work, discipline, and dedication. It seems to have earned her a suffix: "the first."

Clark, the first player to record a 40-point triple-double in men's or women's NCAA tournament history.

Clark, the first player to drop consecutive 40-point games in the women's NCAA tournament.

Clark, the first Division I player to top 3,000 points, 1,000 assists, and 800 rebounds.

Clark, the first Big Ten player to win every major national player of the year award: AP Player of the Year, the Honda Sports Award, the John R. Wooden Award, Naismith College Player of the Year, USBWA National Player of the Year, and the Wade Trophy.

She is a team player, too. In the 2022-23 season, Clark was responsible for 48 percent of the team's assists—another first. No other Division I player, male or female, had ever accounted for more than 42 percent of their team's assists.

Clark is captivating the world with her talent, competitiveness, team spirit, sportsmanship, leadership, work ethic, and evident love for the game of basketball. Already, she has become one of history's most influential women in sports.

Public engagement in women's college basketball has never before reached today's heights. During the 2023 NCAA Tournament, the championship boasted a sellout crowd of 19,482 ticket holders and 9.9 million at-home

viewers. The Hawkeyes' Final Four faceoff garnered 5.5 million viewers, making it the most-watched Women's NCAA Tournament semifinals game on the books. Weeks ahead of the Hawkeyes' 2023-24 season opener, the team broke the alltime attendance record for a single women's basketball game when 55,646 spectators packed Kinnick Stadium for a charity-benefit exhibition. The 2024 Big Ten Women's Basketball Tournament is sold out for the first time ever.

The "Caitlin Clark Effect" is not just changing women's college basketball; it is inspiring athletes of all ages, across all sports. As Clark continues to rise through the ranks of the "all-time greats," I congratulate her on behalf of the Hawkeye State. Keep making us proud. Go Hawks.

TRIBUTE TO JON SHAW

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I stand to recognize and congratulate Mr. Jon Shaw on his retirement from Federal Civilian Service after serving over 16 years in U.S. Central Command's Special Staff Office of Legislative Affairs. Mr. Shaw served in various legislative affairs positions including legislative analyst, deputy director, and executive director. In his civilian service, Mr. Shaw has served under nine commanders from Admiral Fallon, General Dempsey, General Petraeus, General Allen, General Mattis, General Austin, General Votel, General McKenzie, and U.S. Central Command's present commander, General Kurilla. During his time in the civil service, Mr. Shaw has been a part of numerous operational planning teams, crisis action teams, councils, and boards providing legislative expertise.

Mr. Shaw's 44 years of faithful service to our Nation began on April 4, 1980, when he enlisted in the U.S. Army. His 23 years of military service culminated with his retirement as a sergeant major from U.S. Central Command on 1 October 2003. Once again, congratulations to Mr. Shaw on his retirement and for his service to the United States of America.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING DUNGEY'S FURNITURE & FLOORS

• Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week, I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week it is my privilege to recognize Dungey's Furniture & Floors of New Hampton, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Dungey's Furniture & Floors was founded by Everett Dungey in 1963 on East Main Street in New Hampton. Dungey's Furniture & Floors offers high-quality furniture, flooring, bed-

ding, and window treatments to customers throughout Northeast Iowa. In 1983, Everett Dungey's sons Mark and Trace took over the business and have been running it ever since. In 1987, Mark and Trace expanded to a second location in Osage, IA. In 2014, 1 year after they celebrated their 50th business anniversary, their New Hampton location was tragically destroyed by a fire. Dungey's Furniture & Floors moved to a temporary location on Industrial Avenue in New Hampton and broke ground on a new permanent New Hampton location in 2016. In October 2017, their new location opened on Cauty Avenue in New Hampton, thanks to the perseverance of the Dungey family, their employees, and their community.

Today, the 25,000-square-foot New Hampton store is open and proudly serving the Iowa community. Dungey's Furniture & Floors are members of the Horizons Chamber of Commerce and the New Hampton Economic Development. They are also members of the Furniture First Buying Group, a national cooperative of independently owned retail furniture dealers.

The Dungey's Furniture & Floors team is actively involved in the New Hampton community. They have participated in the New Hampton Light Project, a New Hampton community project that decorates the town around the holiday season. In 2023, Dungey's Furniture & Floors were named the marshals for the New Hampton Heartland Days. Due to their hard work, Dungey's Furniture & Floors celebrated its 61st business anniversary in 2024.

I want to commend the Dungey family for achieving their American dream and operating a fantastic small business. Congratulations to the Dungey family and the entire Dungey's Furniture & Floors team on their incredible commitment to our communities. I look forward to seeing your continued growth and success in Iowa.●

TRIBUTE TO NANCY FLAKE JOHNSON

• Mr. OSSOFF. Mr. President, I rise to commend Nancy Flake Johnson of the Urban League of Greater Atlanta for her leadership and service to the State of Georgia.

Ms. Johnson has served as president and CEO of the Urban League of Greater Atlanta since 2008. She previously served as vice president of programs for the Detroit Urban League, led Howard University's Small Business Development Center, and operated an accounting practice. Under Ms. Johnson's leadership, the Urban League of Greater Atlanta has worked tirelessly to deliver impactful programs focusing on economic mobility; developing, delivering, and advocating for innovative policies; and creating partnerships in both public and private sectors. The Urban League works to empower Black-owned small businesses, provide

direct support to young people, and help connect job seekers with workforce development and employment opportunities.

This year, Ms. Johnson was named one of Georgia Trend's 2024 Most Influential Georgians. She was previously honored as one of 21 Women Who Mean Business for 2020 by the Atlanta Business Chronicle and was a 2019 Honoree as one of Atlanta's 500 Most Powerful Leaders by Atlanta Magazine.

As Georgia's U.S. Senator, I commend Nancy Flake Johnson for her work and for her leadership as president of the Urban League of Greater Atlanta.●

TRIBUTE TO PEDRO MARIN

● Mr. OSSOFF. Mr. President, I rise today to honor State Representative Pedro "Pete" Marin, Georgia's longest serving Hispanic State legislator, as he concludes his distinguished career in Georgia's State House.

Earlier this year, Representative Marin announced he would not seek reelection to Georgia's State House after over two decades of service representing the people of Gwinnett County. Born in Puerto Rico, Representative Marin moved to Georgia in 1995. He was elected to Georgia's State House in 2002, among a trio who became the first Hispanic lawmakers in Georgia's history. Throughout his tenure, Representative Marin has been a tireless advocate for his constituents, championing causes like education and social justice, helping bring the needs of Georgia's Latino community to the forefront of the legislative discussion. Representative Marin's commitment to education has been unwavering, ensuring that children in Georgia have access to a quality education, regardless of their background. His dedication to empowering Hispanic youth has and will continue to leave a lasting impact on the future of our State. Representative Marin has long worked to break down barriers and create opportunities for all communities, not just Georgia's Latino community.

As we reflect on Representative Marin's remarkable career, let us express our gratitude for his service and leadership. His integrity and dedication to public service serve as an inspiration to us all.

As Georgia's U.S. Senator, I recognize and commend Georgia State Representative Pedro Marin for his outstanding contributions to the State of Georgia, for his tireless efforts on behalf of Georgia's beloved Latino community, and for his decades of public service.●

TRIBUTE TO NICK SELIMOS

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I honor Nick Selimos in celebration of his 50 years as manager and maitre d' at The Monocle Restaurant, a fixture on Capitol Hill.

Nick Selimos was born in Sparta in the Peloponnese region of Greece. He

spent his childhood there before immigrating to the United States of America to study physics at the University of Maryland. On Friday, March 8, 1974, Nick started what he expected to be a part-time job working with a Greek family but ended up with a 50-year career at The Monocle.

When you enter The Monocle, it is Nick that who greet you by name, firm handshake, and a smile. He always asks about your day, your family, and enjoys a little political banter as he walks you to your table. An avid reader, Nick takes current events seriously; he is always on top of what is happening on Capitol Hill, across the country, and internationally.

Nick embodies true "Greek hospitality" by always treating everyone with respect and familial ease. The magic of Nick's charm is evidenced by the regular customers who dine at The Monocle who enjoy spending time with him. His tireless work ethic has set a standard for excellence in the industry. Please join me in congratulating Nick Selimos on his remarkable career.●

RECOGNIZING THE KIEL OPERA HOUSE

● Mr. SCHMITT. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the Kiel Opera House, now known as the Stifel Theatre, for 90 years of professional entertainment and creativity.

In 1917, Mayor Henry Kiel, opera impresario Guy Golterman, and Parks Commissioner Nelson Cunliff committed to building a civic opera house in downtown St. Louis that would rival those of Europe. Citizens of St. Louis passed the 1923 bond issue to improve the infrastructure of St. Louis, including the creation of the Municipal Auditorium complex on Market Street with the opera house and large auditorium as the centerpiece. The Municipal Auditorium was inaugurated in April 1934, opening with 61 shows, concerts, operas, and special events.

Kiel Opera House served admirably for five decades. In its early years, the theatre was home to the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra and celebrities like Rex Harrison and Jose Ferrer. Between the 1950s and 1980s, stars like Louis Armstrong, Ella Fitzgerald, Johnny Cash, Tony Bennett, Aretha Franklin, Frank Sinatra, Bob Dylan, The Rolling Stones and others graced the stage.

In October 2011, after nearly 20 years vacant, the Kiel Opera House was restored. Its economic strength inspired community leaders and catalyzed 13 years of development and redevelopment across Missouri from Market West to Jefferson and north to Washington.

The Kiel Opera House is a historic gemstone that highlights St. Louis's commitment to the arts, and I hope it continues to be a treasured host of the arts for years to come.●

RECOGNIZING SOUTH CAROLINA CITIZENS FOR LIFE

● Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Mr. President, as the junior Senator from the great State of South Carolina, it is my pleasure to honor the legacy of South Carolina Citizens for Life, SCCL, as they celebrate their 50th jubilee anniversary. Formed in the wake of Roe v. Wade, SCCL's tireless work has been instrumental in saving hundreds of thousands of lives over the past five decades. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating all they have done to create a culture of life in South Carolina and across the country.

South Carolina Citizens for Life has an incredible record of successfully fighting to nurture life at every stage. Their efforts have championed a total of 16 pro-life measures that became law, including legislation which banned doctor prescribed suicide and the Parental Consent Act, which resulted in a 16 percent drop in abortions the year following its passage.

Additionally, South Carolina Citizens for Life spreads awareness about the value of every human life through its booth at the South Carolina State Fair. As SCCL's largest educational resource, this booth has been instrumental in helping millions encounter the humanity of the unborn, many for the first time. For the past 45 years, fair volunteers have faithfully provided crucial information and resources, empowering vulnerable pregnant mothers to choose life.

In 2022, South Carolina Citizens for Life rejoiced when the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade, ushering in a new chapter for the pro-life movement. While they celebrated the lifesaving decision, SCCL continues to press forward, leading the Palmetto State in fighting abortion on demand and helping expectant women choose life. Whether they are fighting to pass the Human Life Protection Act or continuing to spread the pro-life message at our State fair, SCCL's unwavering commitment to the sanctity of life remains stronger than ever.

Congratulations to SCCL on their 50th jubilee anniversary and for championing the unborn for half a century.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Stringer, one of his secretaries.

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REPORT OF THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13692 OF MARCH 8, 2015, WITH RESPECT TO THE SITUATION IN VENEZUELA—PM 40

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message