

challenges and economic dislocation associated with the Western energy crisis. As a new member of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, I immediately set out to understand how technology—and in particular, the convergence of grid and emerging internet and communications technologies—could bolster system reliability and prevent such a series of events from happening again.

I learned that a group of researchers from PNNL had been working with the Bonneville Power Administration on concepts of wide-area situational awareness, given transmission system reliability events that had recently happened in the West. What is more, they were working on extending those concepts to provide more flexibility and control at the grid edge, integration of variable renewables and working to build cybersecurity into these approaches from the outset.

Over time, Carl and his team's work at PNNL would help inform technical programmatic trajectories included in the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the Energy Security Act of 2020, and related provisions in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Approaches pioneered at PNNL in the cybersecurity arena, with the stewardship of DOE's Office of Electricity—and subsequently, the Office of Cyber Security, Energy Security, and Emergency Response—would underpin the designation of DOE as the energy sector-specific Agency for cybersecurity included in 2017's FAST Act.

Throughout these two decades of dynamic change in the electricity industry—and the added complexity of the environment in which it operates—Carl has shown the unique ability to synthesize the technical findings of PNNL and other laboratory and university researchers, take into account multiple perspectives from industry, and help chart a clear and actionable path forward for next steps in the grid modernization journey. He has built relationships on the basis of a clear-eyed, technically unassailable and unbiased approach, and with the confidence of his colleagues grounded in his integrity and his insistence on always putting the Nation's needs first, ahead of any parochial concerns. Carl has stressed the importance of research, government, and industry working together and built the relationships across industry, long-time DOE civil servants and spanning different administrations, necessary to deliver on the mission.

As a recognized expert and cochair of DOE's Grid Modernization Laboratory Consortium, Carl would find his way back to the very same Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee hearing room he had first visited as part of his mother's conservation work back in Arkansas. He has testified on "... the high return on investment encountered by utilities and national labs across the country when combining

new electric infrastructure innovation with public-private validation and deployment." He has brought perspectives on growing interdependencies across multiple critical infrastructures, smart grid concepts, changes in generation mix, grid controls, and information technology "... collectively reshaping utility business models and enabling new innovations and market participants." And most recently, Carl brought forward DOE and laboratory perspectives on efforts to mitigate wildfire risk and increase grid resiliency—an emerging issue of great concern for utilities and communities across the West.

Our collective efforts to address the necessity of grid modernization as an energy, economic, and national security imperative are much better for the work of Carl Imhoff and the leadership he has shown across his four decade plus career at PNNL. As he heads off to spend more time with his wife Kristen and his growing grandchildren, I congratulate him on a well-deserved retirement. Still, I hope Carl will keep a phone handy to share occasional wise perspectives on the next phases of our grid modernization journey in the Pacific Northwest, even if he answers the call while hiking Badger Mountain.

So I am pleased to have this opportunity to publicly thank Carl, not only for the contributions he made while at PNNL, but for his approach to collaboration and innovation in the public interest, which will continue to help the Pacific Northwest and our entire Nation realize a more reliable, resilient, affordable, and cleaner energy future.

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN WILLIAM C. PENNINGTON

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize CAPT William C. Pennington for his exemplary dedication to duty and service to the U.S. Navy and to the United States of America. I have personally gotten to know Captain Pennington, or "BP," over the past 3 years, while he served as the director of the Navy and Marine Corps Congressional Appropriations Matters Office.

Captain Pennington was born in Chicago, IL, and raised in Dallas, TX. He began his Navy service in 1992 as a midshipman at the U.S. Naval Academy, where he was the captain of the men's varsity track and field team, and earned his bachelors of science degree in weapons and systems engineering. In 1996, he was commissioned as a naval officer from the U.S. Naval Academy and was assigned to the Bureau of Naval Personnel in Washington, DC, (PERS 43) until he began flight training in Pensacola, FL, in 1997.

A career maritime patrol aviator, BP has valiantly served all over the world on behalf of our Nation. Throughout his 28 years of service he has completed operational tours in Kaneohe Bay, HI, with Patrol Squadron FOUR (VP-4), in Whidbey Island, WA, with Patrol

Squadron FORTY (VP-40), and in Jacksonville, FL, where he commanded the "War Eagles" of Patrol Squadron SIXTEEN (VP-16). While in command, he led his crew on the Navy's first-ever P-8A Poseidon deployment. Additionally, at sea, he served as the Japan and China Pol-Mil/Exercise Office on the staff of Commander, U.S. Seventh Fleet onboard USS *Blue Ridge* (LCC-19) operating out of Yokosuka, Japan.

In his most recent operational tour he served as Commander, Task Force 67 (CTF 67) responsible for maritime patrol, reconnaissance, and expeditionary naval aviation forces operating in support of the U.S. Sixth Fleet.

Captain Pennington's shore tours have included instructor duty at the Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Fleet Replacement Squadron (VP-30), deputy executive assistant to the Director, Air Warfare (N88/98), a joint tour on the Joint Staff in the J-8 Studies, Analysis, and Gaming Division, and as Multi-Mission Aircraft and Programs Branch Head and Maritime Patrol Reconnaissance Aircraft (MPRA) Requirements Officer at OPNAV N98. Following command of Task Force 67, he was assigned to OPNAV N9I as the deputy director of the Navy's Unmanned Campaign before assuming his current duties as Director, Navy and Marine Corps Congressional Appropriations Matters Office (FMBE) in March 2021.

The importance of FMBE to the Senate Defense Appropriations Committee cannot be overstated. Established by law, FMBE serves as the committee's direct link to Navy leadership, and the committee relies on FMBE for timely and accurate information regarding the Navy's budget. As Director, Captain Pennington justified three budget submissions for the Department of Navy through continuous communication with Members of Congress and their staff. BP's rapport with Senators and their staffs enhanced transparency and reinforced trust in our Nation's Navy and Marine Corps team.

NATIONAL RENDERING DAY

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I submit this statement in recognition of the second annual National Rendering Day. I am honored to represent many great rendering companies in Mississippi. The responsibility for feeding the world extends beyond the farm, and rendering helps ensure we can meet the growing global demand for food, feed, and fuel, while reducing food waste and loss.

Renderers positively impact local, State, national, and international economies. In particular, American renderers generate \$10 billion in annual economic benefit to the country. Much of this investment comes in the form of small businesses, which create numerous jobs and illustrate the American dream.

Rendering is the largest industry involved in preventing food loss and waste. Due to North American consumer preferences, only half of each

animal produced for meat is consumed for food. By recycling these animal products, renderers create valuable ingredients from resources that would otherwise be taken to landfills. Renderers also collect billions of pounds of used cooking oil from restaurants and food manufacturers, which they upcycle into products and sustainable fuels. The practice also feeds cattle, hogs, turkeys, chickens, household pets, and other animals.

Today, on National Rendering Day, please join me in recognizing renderers' countless contributions to the U.S. economy and stewarding our natural resources.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

• Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, The American Institute For Foreign Study—AIFS—which was founded in 1964 by Sir Cyril Taylor, is a global leader in cultural exchange and educational travel. For 60 years, AIFS, guided by its mission to “bring the world together,” has helped foster global understanding and cross-cultural communication among generations of young people.

From study abroad to the international au pair program, over 1.8 million people have participated in AIFS' high-quality educational and cultural exchange programming. In our increasingly interconnected world, these programs provide unique opportunities for young people to broaden their worldview and become globally minded citizens. AIFS also works in partnership with the State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, including through their implementation of the au pair program, to advance public diplomacy and support lasting cultural ties between the U.S. and participating nations.

Headquartered in Stamford, CT, AIFS has offices in five countries and nearly 1,000 employees worldwide, including 100 in Connecticut. Under the leadership of its chairman, William L. Gertz, AIFS remains at the forefront of cultural exchange and educational programs with nearly 40,000 annual participants.

I am proud to congratulate AIFS on its six decades of success. May the next 60 years see AIFS continue its work building the next generation of global citizens.●

162ND ANNIVERSARY OF FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH

• Mr. OSSOFF. Mr. President, I rise to commend Friendship Baptist Church in Atlanta, GA, on its 162nd anniversary.

Friendship Baptist Church was first established in 1862 and independently organized in 1866 in the days after the Civil War, becoming Atlanta's first Black Baptist Congregation.

Originally run out of a refurbished railroad boxcar donated by the Ninth Street Baptist Church in Cincinnati, OH, Friendship Baptist Church has served as a launching point for several of Georgia's preeminent institutions of higher education, including Atlanta University in 1865 and both Morehouse and Spelman Colleges in 1879 and 1881, respectively.

In the years since its inception, the leadership and congregation of Friendship Baptist Church have played an integral role in both the faith-life of Atlanta, serving as a “mother church” to new spaces of worship for more families across Georgia, and in the civic life of Atlanta.

Having moved their physical church for the third time in over a century, Friendship Baptist Church dedicated itself to be a “church with no wall,” embracing the meaning of their name and becoming a friend to the people of Atlanta and the people of Georgia.

Today, Friendship Baptist Church is led by Pastor Reverend Dr. Kelly Miller Smith, Jr., with over 600 congregants and continues to play a vital role in the community.

I commend the Friendship Baptist Church leadership, clergy, and congregation on this 162nd anniversary and thank them for their leadership in the community.●

TRIBUTE TO 2024 SPRING INTERNS

• Mr. RICKETTS. Mr. President, today I stand before you to express my gratitude and admiration for the exceptional students who joined our team as spring interns in 2024.

These talented young women and men brought a unique blend of enthusiasm, dedication, and a passion for making a difference to my offices in Washington, DC, office and across the State of Nebraska. Our interns have consistently shown a motivation to learn and a strong commitment to our State. Their presence has not only enriched our workspace, but also inspired my team and me. As the torchbearers of the next generation, their spirit and determination fill us with anticipation for what the future holds.

As they leave our office, I want to take a moment to extend my sincerest thanks to: Reese Clarke, Nathan Muilenburg, and Jack Smith, who served in my Washington, DC, office; Paxton Robertson, who served in my Kearney office; Abbie Russman, who served in my Omaha office; and William Funke, who served in my Lincoln office.

Your dedication and contributions have truly made our team stronger. I hope you will carry the lessons learned here into your bright futures. Congratulations, and best of luck.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:02 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, an-

nounced that the House agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 815) to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements relating to the eligibility of veterans to receive reimbursement for emergency treatment furnished through the Veterans Community Care program, and for other purposes, with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, without amendment:

S. Con. Res. 29. Concurrent resolution providing for a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 815.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY) announced that on today, April 23, 2024, she had signed the following enrolled bill, which was previously signed by the Speaker of the House:

H.R. 4389. An act to amend the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act to make improvements to that Act, and for other purposes.

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-4188. A communication from the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency's fiscal year 2023 Permitting Best Practices Annual Report to Congress under Title 41 of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4189. A communication from the Manager of Listing and Policy Support, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Listing Endangered and Threatened Species and Designating Critical Habitat” (RIN1018-BF95) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4190. A communication from the Chief of the Branch of Domestic Listing, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Regulations for Interagency Cooperation” (RIN1018-BF96) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4191. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plan; Maryland; Regional Haze State Implementation Plan for the Second Implementation Period” (FRL No. 11269-02-R3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 4, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4192. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the