

250TH ANNIVERSARY OF UNION,
MAINE

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, on July 19, 1774, a small band of rugged and courageous pioneers established a settlement in the Maine wilderness between the Medomak and Saint George rivers. They cleared the land, built cabins, endured hunger and cold, and, with backbreaking work, created a community. Today, it is a pleasure to join the people of Union, ME, in celebrating the 250th anniversary of a community that is a wonderful place to live, work, and raise families. Although part of a land grant made by the Plymouth Council in 1629, the territory remained unsettled for more than a century due to conflicting claims of jurisdiction by the English and French. When the hostilities ended, Dr. John Taylor of Massachusetts bought the land and led the settlement party. Originally called Taylor Town, it was renamed Sterlingtown in honor of a Revolutionary War hero and finally incorporated as Union to commemorate our new Nation.

Among the many illustrious natives of Union is John Langdon Sibley, scholar, author, and librarian of Harvard University. His history of his beloved hometown from its origin to 1850 is remarkable for its thoroughness, insight, and wit.

"By competent judges," he wrote, "the soil of Union is considered as good as that of . . . the best farming towns in the State." The scenery provided by lush vegetation, hills, valleys, rivers, and streams "affords a rich enjoyment to people of taste and admirers of nature." Although Mr. Sibley allows that the assertion from a neighboring town that "people never die in Union" is an exaggeration, he posits that the uncommonly pure water, brisk air circulation over the varied terrain, the vigorous agricultural work, and generally good habits are why inhabitants "wear the hue of health" and why visitors often remark "that there was more female beauty in Union than in any other town in the county or State."

The work ethic of the townspeople and water power from the fast-moving rivers soon made Union a center of industry, with foundries, sawmills, grain mills, and factories manufacturing products ranging from carriages and farm equipment to footwear and musical instruments. Thousands of artifacts from those early days are preserved at the Matthews Museum of Maine Heritage, with a special section devoted to Dr. Augustin Thompson, the Union-born Civil War hero, physician, and inventor of Moxie, the patent nerve medicine that is now the official soft drink of the State of Maine.

Union cherishes its history. Next to the museum stands the Hodge School, the thoroughly restored one-room schoolhouse that served the town from 1864 to 1954. Established more than 150 years ago, the Union Fair celebrates the town's agricultural traditions. Laid

out in 1790, the picturesque Union Common is the oldest public town common in Maine, with memorials to patriots and a bandstand listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The people of Union are rightfully proud of their town and have worked together to plan an exciting and fun-filled 3-day sestercentennial celebration beginning July 19. Among events will be the opening of a time capsule from the bicentennial celebration in 1974.

In addition to John Langdon Sibley's book, the story of Union was told in the popular 1940 historical novel "Come Spring" by Ben Ames Williams. Republished in 2000 by the Union Historical Society, the novel imagines the struggles and triumphs of the real-life Robbins family during the first years of the settlement's—and our Nation's—existence.

In the preface to his novel, the author writes that Union "is a small Maine town founded by ordinary people in the ordinary way, by carving a community out of the forest and putting the land to work. The people in this book were not individually as important as George Washington, the town was not as important as New York, but people like them made this country, and towns like this were and are the soil in which our country's roots are grounded."

Union's 250th anniversary is not merely about the passing of time. It is about human accomplishment. We celebrate the people who, for longer than America has been a nation, have pulled together, cared for one another, and built a great community. Thanks to those who came before, Union, ME, has a wonderful history. Thanks to those there today, it has a bright future.

RECOGNIZING THE CENTER FOR
BLACK EXCELLENCE AND CULTURE
OF MADISON

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam President, I rise to recognize the Center for Black Excellence and Culture, which will break ground in Madison this year on Juneteenth National Independence Day. I wish also to acknowledge the many community leaders who have worked tirelessly to make the Center a reality.

The Center for Black Excellence and Culture was founded by Reverend Doctor Alex Gee who has been a fierce advocate for Madison's African-American community for more than 30 years. The Center will unite and uplift Madison's African-American community by providing a space for entrepreneurial exploration, cultural engagement, and celebration.

Rev. Dr. Gee and his board of directors have joined with other community leaders to raise over \$28 million for the project. Now that they have reached their goal, they will begin construction on June 19, 2024. The decision to break ground on Juneteenth was an intentional and powerful one.

The new Black inspired and designed building will sit on 3.5 acres of land and will include many commercial spaces, including an art gallery and theatre space. Rev. Dr. Gee has convened a powerhouse team of Black leaders and hundreds of diverse Black voices to shape the Center. These leaders will support thousands of students through mentorship and professional development and teach students about African-American history and culture to inspire and advance the Black community in Madison and beyond.

The Center will also include a space dedicated to Rev. Dr. Gee's mother, Ms. Verline Gee, who served the Madison community for decades as a mentor, poet, social worker, and faith leader. Ms. Gee's story is one of strength and perseverance. She was born in Mississippi and worked alongside her parents as a migrant farmer in her youth. As a child she moved to the Midwest eventually making her way to Madison. Throughout her life, Ms. Gee was always passionate about education. She was one of the inaugural students to attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Black Studies Program. The Center for Black Excellence and Culture will honor the memory of Ms. Gee and all other African-American community members who have contributed so much to Madison.

Juneteenth celebrates the end of slavery in the United States, but it also serves as a reminder of the work that still needs to be done to dismantle deep-rooted systems of racial injustice. While strides have been made, the African-American community continues to face significant systemic injustices. Across Wisconsin, African-American families are five times more likely than White families to experience poverty and 61 percent of all African-American households in Dane County live near or below the poverty line. The presence of these injustices makes the Center for Black Excellence all the more critical.

True freedom requires liberty and equity for all. The Center for Black Excellence and Culture will contribute to this mission and serve as a model for other cities to follow.

As the Center for Black Excellence breaks ground this Juneteenth, I honor the accomplishments of Rev. Dr. Gee, the Center's board of directors, the memory of Ms. Verline Gee and all the community leaders, past and present, who made the Center a reality.

CONGRESSIONAL AWARD GOLD
MEDALISTS

Ms. LUMMIS. Madam President, today I wish to congratulate this year's winners of the Congressional Award. The Congressional Award was established by Congress in 1979 and, for many years, has recognized the spectacular achievements of young people in the areas of volunteerism, personal development, fitness, and expedition.

The brilliant design of this program allows individuals to set their own

goals based on personal interest and work toward either a bronze, silver, or gold certificate or medal. It is incredible to see what young people can achieve when they are personally invested in setting and achieving their goals. I am impressed to hear of the combined impact and can only imagine the overwhelming benefits to communities across the country.

It is a privilege to recognize the great work of this year's recipients. I urge these young people to continue aiming high and setting a positive example for their peers.

I include in the RECORD a list of this year's Congressional Award Gold Medalists from around the country:

Alaska: Madeline Anderson
 Alabama: Amanda Browning, Lily Hoyle
 Arkansas: Abigail Catron
 Arizona: Billal Abulfotuh, Adelina Grotenhuis, Thomasina (Tamsin) Hurlbut, Zaid Jamal, Timothy Jiang, Payton Kelly, Ronald (Ronnie) Keyes, Shea Lee, Colin Lifshitz, Mustafa Nalbantoglu, Zack Okun, Borislava Panayotova, Cutter Papritz, Sofia Reyes, Alyson Small, Elyzabeth Small, Mason Takeuchi, Ivanna Viloria Enciso
 California: Annika Agarwal, Nathaniel Arrogante, Emin Aslan, Shijoon Bae, Adrian Baek, Zoey Bahng, Brianna Bailey, Pravin Balasingam, Daniel Bang, Naim Bayraktar, Wolfram Bikel, Lachlan Black, Reenie Cao, Tenzing Carvalho, Hyunwoo Cha, Olivia Cha, Ethan Chang, David Chang, Shruti Chari, Mina Chen, Steven Cheng, Hemkesh Chenupati, Emilie Chi, Alexander Chiao, Jamie Cho, Jessica Cho, Nathan Cho, Nagyung (Anna) Cho, Rosa Cho, Michelle Cho, Mason Choe, Ellie Choi, Minjoon Choi, Samuel Choi, Sophia Chou, Taylor Chu, Chloe Chung, Brandon Chung, Hatice Sevd Deniz, Diya Dipak, Claire Dokko, Elliot Dokko, Jason Dong, Feodora Douplitzky-Lunati, Renee Duan, Azra Erdoghan, Madeline Freeland, Aarushi Ghildyal, Xinyue (Cindy) Gong, Sophie Gopen, Amita Gowda, Radhika Goyal, Athena Guan, Aaron Han, Paul Han, Junhyeok Han, Yahya Hasan, Xihao He, Qingchun He, Dia Hemanth, Katherine Hion, Evan Ho, Jeongmin Hong, Eric Hong, Ian Hong, Daniel Hong, Yixian Huang, Celine Huh, Cat-Tam Huynh, Jung Jin Hwang, Priscilla Ibarra, Nolan Ironhill, Carter Jackson, Ria Jain, Hanlee Jang, Shriya Janolkar, Jaeyoung (Ryan) Jeon, Ella Jeon, Minhyeok Jeong, Noah Jeong, Eliana Jeong, Benjamin Jiang, Claire Jin, Jaehye Jung, Jessica Jung, Heidi Jung, Hailey Jiwon Kang, Shreyas Kapavarapu, Garrett Kath, Sudhakhar Katta, Ava Khossravi, Julian Kim, Ryan Kim, Chloe Kim, Rachel Kim, Stanley Kim, Daeyong Kim, Theodore Kim, Baron Kim, Sean Kim, Eric Kim, Jonathan Kim, Hennah Kim, Skyler Kim, Lauren Kim, Clair Kim, Christine Kim, Kayleen Kim, Ivy Kim, Isaac Kim, Choyoung (Kaylee) Kim, Yoonho Kim, Niklas Kinne, Amit Krishna, Shivam Kumar, Chris Kwon, Hannah Lee, Eunchan Lee, Nicole Lee, ChunPo Lee, Jayden Lee, Ashley Lee, Kunwoo Lee, Kayla Lee, Alexis Lee, Seongjae (Alex) Lee, Claire Lee, Aiden Lee, Yennie Lee, Hyunmin (Paul) Lee, Brandon Lee, Logan Lee, Nathan Lee, Angelina Lee, Hyunwoo Lee, Nahyun Lee, Eunice Lee, Nayun Lee, Jeongwoo Lee, Ian Lee, Tabitha Lee Chon, Michelle Li, Jessica Li, Qiuxian (Lily) Li, Darell Lien, Ryan Lim, Zoe Lin, Vito Lin, Sebastian Liong, Danny Willow Liu, Ziyi (Eva) Liu, Bryan Louie, Audrey Lowell, Alex Lu, Mallika Maddukuri, Simon March-Cunningham, Addison Marrs, Tejas Mathai, Mihir Mathai, Robert McPhie, Xuefeng Mei, Ryan Min, Avery Mizrahi,

Maya Mohan, Antoinette Morales, Kea Morshed, Jane Moyer, Heeju Nam, Sriya Neti, Yishan Ni, Alex Nicholson, Hyunmin Noh, Ethan Noh, Abigail Norman, Justin Oh, Azra Oten, Matthew Paek, Iris Paek, Ethan Paik, Noah Pak, Andrew Park, Michelle Park, Michelle Park, Keilah Park, Joanne Park, Sydney Park, Lena Park, Aiden Park, Gunwoo Park, Ryan Park, Arin Parsa, Safia Peer, Shay Pema, Abhinav Penagalapati, Devyn (Divya) Ponnuruvelu, Arya Prince, Sanam Punjabi, Tengjie (Jay) Qiu, Kate Quach, Tanush Rachamalla, Zachery Ramos, Maanasa Ramprasad, Neel Rangan, Nevin Rao, Mahika Redla, Aidan Reyes, David Rivera, Jonathan Ryu, Hoon Ryu, Simran Saluja, Katherine Scannell, Jeremy Schabillon, Samyuktha Senthilnathan, Sienna Shah, Sidharth Sharma, Anthony Shen, HaJoon Shim, Chloe Shim, Yeonsu Shim, Christine Shin, Yuna Shin, Hojun Son, Ryan Song, Jocelyn Soo, Jacob St. George, Raymond Suh, Erin Ji Sun, Bridget Swineford, Emily Tae, Alex Tak, Shiyun (Judy) Tao, Alyssa Taylor, Maia Tumbokon, Sashan Umashankar, Sriram Vaidhyathan, Ved Vedere, Tanya Vidhun, Nathan Wan, Kylie Wang, Terry Wang, Tiffany Wang, Dylan West, Aaron Won, Chelsea Won, Avery Wong, Andrew Woo, Jiyun Woo, Kari Wu, Wenkai Wu, Jiaze (Leo) Xu, Adora Yan, Lindsay Yao, Noah Yi, Jaewon (Justin) Yi, Boaz Earl Yoo, Calista Yoo, Jaden Yoo, Jeremy Yoo, Hayley Yoon, Faith Yoon, Juneho Yoon, Ethan Yoon, Allison Yu, Zihang Yu, Jackson Zagone, Zhongwen Zhang, Wenyao (William) Zhao, Cindy Zhao, Ruiyu (Rayer) Zhou, Jackson Zinn

Colorado: Seif Abouyoussef, Henry Bae, Elizabeth Batenburg, Ria Ghosh, Gracie Woo Connecticut: Reid Barry, Martin Jara, Ava Leshem, Alisha Patel, Madeline Phelan, Emily Roy, Natalia Schaffer, Liam Tomaszewski, Neha Tungaturthy, Zach Yung Delaware: Nitya Singh, Anirudh Singh Florida: Keziah Anderson, Jessie Baxter, Flavio Canello, Caleigh Carter, Coen Chilver, Colton Chilver, Luke Cooper, Landon Dabney, Clayton Didier, Zakaria El-Helw, Emily Feichtenthaler, Keira Rose Finelli, Tarang Gaddam, Anjali Gusani, Chase Hartman, Maddox Hoffman, John Humphreys, Jake Julien, Jessa-Chloe Katzeff, Neeharika Kota, Aditya Krishnan, Fisher Ledbetter, Calder Ledbetter, Robert Linton, Ramsey McClure, Isabella Mendelson, Aaditya Nair, Arjun Nanduri, Adam Oakes, Sophia Olsinski, Dhruv Pandya, Grace Pleinis, Emma Rawlson, Aubrey Rosenhaus, Julian Sant, Ava Shelly, Charles Stacy, Jonathan Steffen, Christopher (Thor) Warcken Georgia: Katherine Elizabeth Aide, David Blanco, Ashley Choi, Raine Cox, Jayden Daniel, Christian Flournoy, Lauren Foglesong, Joseph Ivey, Rishi Jeyamurthy, Akhil Kalva, Achintya Murugaraj, Sanjana Pawar, Danica Resha, Ella Shaffer, Ananya Tadepalli, Pranavi Vedula

Guam: Julie Ann Laxamana
 Hawaii: Barbara Goldyn, Jay Rhymer
 Iowa: Alexander Hennig, Tiff Lieberman, Nadia Patel
 Idaho: Ireland Clark, Elliott Lochard
 Illinois: Grace Catherine Bourbon, Christian Goodall, Cora Koch, Anne Reidenbach, Bela Sanghavi
 Indiana: Liam Blank, Audrey Booher, Zoe Carpenter, Aditi Dey, Brandon Kruger, Theodore Lach, Thomas S. Pemberton
 Kansas: Samiksha Aitha, Liane Bclair, Afraah Hawa, Ella Heitmann, Daniel John Kentucky: Jackson Robbins, Isaac Stricker Louisiana: Elliott Gomes Massachusetts: Madison Cable, Matthew Church, Aden Geonhee Lee, Tain Leonard-Peck, Chen-An Lin, Prisha Shrivastava, Jason Zhou
 Maryland: Ellis Chung, Elijah Cockey, Isabel Cockey, Mason Denny, Emily Dong,

David Hamman, Zander Hine, Adam Jackson, Jessica Li, Aidan McCrohan, Amari Mhoon, Rithwik Reddy, Andrew Sha, Joseph Simak, Guy Taylor, Boyan-Jise Tiwang

Michigan: Elizabeth Cook, Benjamin Hayes, Miles Hopkins, Grace Pantea, Jeff Roseman

Minnesota: Alluri Akshay, Jonathan Erickson, Abigail Hudson, Gabriella Hudson, Mark Swanson

Missouri: Brandon Barrett, Lydia Brodbeck, Alex Chen, Cole Dannull, Gianna Francis, Lindsey Gordon, John Hayes, Savannah King, Melissa Matlalcuatzi Pluma, Liam Smith, Alina Stribling, Helton W. Walker, Ethan Wood

Mississippi: Hayden Barnett, Ashley Grace Bassett, Colt Bergman, Lauren Hobson, Hannah Sanders

North Carolina: Nachammai Annamalai, Hannah Bauer, Ava Beninati, Lula Bovino, Sabrina Bradford, Mina Cayli, Ayse Civelek, Ava Copeland, Ciela Crane, Philip Dai, Jonah Dickerson, Anna Goldsmith, Rayna Hamilton, Karis Hunt, Ameza Kandula, Avery King, Ally Kryzalka, Sloane Lewis, Sofia Liotino, Robert Lyda, Caroline Mautner, Graham Mills, Niharika Parui, Dawson Raynes, Shravan Selvavel, Hemharsith Sivakumar Gayathri, Asmithaa Vinukonda, Katya Withrow, Allison Witte, Truett Wolf

Nebraska: Meruni Are, Alejandro González Ba os, Francisco González Ba os, Landry Lehan

New Hampshire: Adele Mamedova

New Jersey: Suheyla Akman, Riya Atluri, Burak Cebel, Canon Chiu, Autumn Chiu, James Crowley, Jack DeVergilio, Kaitlin Dowling, Sriram Elango, Ryan Gilmartin, Alyssia Gomez, Nathaniel Han, Riya Jain, Rohan Jay, Ahmet Kaval, Muhammed Keskin, Elif Kilinc, Jonah Klein, Naishada Kotagiri, Emily Kukal, Sonal Lakhani, Chase Mazur, Benjamin Miller, Tyler Minn, Senthilkumar Nithyanandam, Udgita Pamidigantam, Rishi Parikh, Rahil Patel, Dev Patel, Samhita Pokkunuri, Mili Raghavan, Pallavi Routray, Shaunak Sabbani, Gavin Tripido, Jonathan Yoo

Nevada: Jenna Becker, Lorelain Riley Ladislao, Taha Lahlou, Diesel Leano, Jia Mahesh, Emily Mattox, Ignatius Miller, Gianna Nakhle, Randy Pahang, Momoka Utsumi, Tamara Young

New York: David Barlow, Jonathan Barlow, Luke Bonifacio, Ethan Chiu, Lillian Cognato, Yana Dhingra, Victoria D'Ovidio, Thomas Fernandez, Cassandra Fitzpatrick, Akshar Gopa, Miyana Holden, Ava Johnson, Riha Kyatham, Ryan Leonard, Jasmine Sixian Li, Nitin Malepati, Clara McGroary, Phillip Muller, Viraj Pahuja, Ana Lee Palmer, Saharsh Peddireddy, Sahil Polepalle, Alexander Ren, Hailey Richman, Ziyue Wang, Haluk Yavas, Eugene Yoo, Elle Yormak, Youwei Zhen

Ohio: Laasya Acharya, Pragalya Arumugam, Micah Burkhard, Shashank Chanamolu, Zachary DeVor, Adam Howe, Gabrielle Kirwin, Madeline Morrison, Megha Nadagouda, Maya Nayar, Carter Norvell, Naisha Patel, Keeran Patel, Meera Rajeev, Vaidika Ravi, Maggie Skelly, John Snethkamp, Keshav Sriram, Shreemayi Trichy

Oklahoma: Andrew Ebert, Timothy Martin, Anna Parry, Alanya Abou-Elmajd

Oregon: Sophia D'Antonio, McKenna Erickson

Pennsylvania: Maura Campbell, Eleanor Day, S bastien Guillotin, Lucas Hayes, Ryan Kraychik, Delia Maldonado, Sabrina Maldonado, Alex Porambo, Shivika Varshney, Vanessa Wehinger, Max Zhang Puerto Rico: Gerardo Juan Jos Mena-Fernández, Meghna (Chili) Pramoda

South Carolina: Alex Bohnen, Grant Bohnen, Harmonie Frederick, Nina Gallo,

Tyler Hanson, Caitlyn Horton, James Reaves, Alexander Ring

South Dakota: Grace Belcher, Ronan Maher

Tennessee: Jaishva Bhatt, Daniel Clark, Joshua Clark, Zeynep Dibi, Ethan Elder, Blake Freeman, Rachel Oppmann, Hannah Skaar

Texas: Heather Adams, Alyssa Anderson, Nikita Basappa, Praneel Bhagavatula, Brooke Carol Billedo, Mehmet Bisen, Andrew Boisson, Nicholas Boling, Ethan Bosita, Carson Bosita, Oliver Burke, Ananya Chandak, Josh Chandra, Sanjith Chandran, Riya Chauhhan, Elijah Chen, Isaiah Clark, Shloak Dalal, Charli Davis, Dominique de Waal, Anagha Deepak, Thomas Dorsey, Andon Epp, Nursel Eski, Mahek Goel, Kyler Hester, Abdullah Hussein, Jonah Ismael, Sally Ismael, Trisha Jha, Abraar Khan, Shiza Khan, Ivy Koh, Kaden Mabey, Tanya Mahesh, William Martin, Margot Martin, Justin Mathew, Ayaan Moledina, Abi Newell, Nayonika Pande, Aryan Patel, Aliya Patel, Duane Pfeiffer, Aditi Ramesh Iyer, Shawn Ray, Aubrey Reeves, Zeynep Sahin, Justin Simms, Nikhil Srinivas, Suhaani Srereddy, Julian Stewart, Daniel Thomas, Gracie Wakefield, Sophia Wei, April White, Hazel White, Benjamin Who, William Witherspoon

Utah: Anvar Boskailo, Elorah Dobrinski, Zuhair Kariparduc, Katherine Kim, Alexandar Straley

Virginia: Timothy Cline, Rudra Dave, Eren Demirel, Nicholas Flanigan, Namith Gangireddyvari, Kendan Hopkins, Begum Hussain, Zara Sophia Javeri, Evan Kinsel, Joshua Lee, Pierson Lee, Daniel Lian, Yashvir Sahharwal, Serena Sindhri, Rishika Singh, Mark Wilson, Burhan Yasakci, Mert Esat Yercel

Vermont: Katherine Bartlett, Megan Henderson

Washington: Irene Batta, Celeste Blair, Sara Cambron, Amalia (Molly) Dudley, Lauren Evans, Varshini Hari, Jason Kim, Ryan Kinder, Lilah Moore, Betul Orhan, Raigan Ryhter, Naren Selvam, Jonathan Tang, Liam Urie, Anisha Vaish

Wisconsin: Jessica Becker, Michael Brierton, Sandra Brierton, Pranav Nair

Wyoming: Thomas Audley, Jonnina Edmunds, Cambry Jenks, Aidan Kim-Miller, Caleb Miller, Jackson Neishabouri, Elise Newton, Hunter Sabat, Isabell Salas, Aubrey Smedley, Greyson Smith, Ava Taylor

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING USAA

• Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, Texas is proudly home to roughly 1.4 million veterans, more than any other State in the country. I am honored that these American heroes have chosen to call Texas home, and I have no doubt that their decision was based, at least in part, on our State's deep-rooted tradition of military service and the network of support it has created.

Across Texas, businesses, nonprofits, and veterans organizations provide these men and women with a range of resources, from job training to mental health services. Their support is a testament to the profound respect and gratitude Texans hold for those who have given so much in service to our country.

One of the staunchest advocates for veterans in Texas and across the country is the United Services Automobile

Association, or USAA. USAA was founded in 1922 by 25 Army officers who were unable to secure auto insurance. The group met in San Antonio and decided to insure each other in an effort to solve a problem facing many servicemembers and their families at the time. Over a century later, USAA now serves millions of members and continues to pursue its mission to empower the military community.

One year ago, USAA launched a significant initiative to combat veteran suicide, the second leading cause of death among post-9/11 veterans. More than 120,000 veterans have died by suicide since 2001, a suicide rate 57 percent higher than the national average.

In keeping with their commitment to America's military, USAA established Face the Fight, a collaborative effort of corporations, foundations, nonprofit groups, and veteran-focused organizations charged with raising awareness of veteran and military suicide prevention.

The USAA-led coalition includes two founding members, the Humana Foundation and Reach Resilience, and is guided by its academic partner and scientific adviser, the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. The coalition is managed by the Elizabeth Dole Foundation and has grown to include more than 160 members working to break the stigma surrounding suicide in the military community by fostering real, open conversations around support and hope.

America's veterans are a powerful reminder of the sacrifices that have been made by generations of heroes to protect the freedoms we enjoy, and it is our collective duty to ensure they receive the support they need when they return to civilian life. The honor-bound agreement between our men and women in uniform and our Nation does not end at retirement. No veteran should ever be forgotten. I commend USAA's efforts to prevent veteran suicide and support America's heroes.●

TRIBUTE TO DAN GIVENS

• Mr. KAINE. Madam President, I wish to recognize Mr. Dan Givens for his outstanding contributions to the Commonwealth of Virginia, the aerospace sector and the national security of the United States. Dan will retire on June 29, 2024, after serving as the spaceport director for the Virginia Spaceport Authority's Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport (MARS) since 2021. Dan was hired as operations manager in 2019 and has served as a strategic member of the Virginia Spaceport Authority—VSA—team as it works to fulfill its mandates of developing and operating an operational spaceport that facilitates reliable access to space while stimulating aerospace-related economic activity across the Commonwealth of Virginia.

During his tenure, Dan oversaw the management and operations of over \$240 million worth of spaceport assets, including multiple launch pads, mul-

tiple support facilities, and a UAS airfield. He supported the construction of the newest two orbital launch pads at MARS, as well as two support facilities and supervised modifications to existing pads for continued use into the future. He oversaw nine successful launches of the Antares rocket, four of the Electron rockets—including Electron's first flight from U.S. soil—and two national security missions for the intelligence community. Dan was instrumental in establishing the Virginia Spaceport Authority's partnership with Vandenberg Space Force Base, including marking the first mission VSA supported outside of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Finally, Dan supported 14 customers with 20 different programs at the UAS airfield, reflecting 630 sorties and 959 flight hours in support of emerging unmanned capabilities. During his tenure, MARS grew 108 percent, from 60 to 108 employees.

VSA and MARS are fortunate to have such an effective leader in Dan Givens. I am pleased to reflect on his contributions to our Commonwealth here today and wish him a peaceful and relaxing retirement after a job well done.●

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

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.)

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGES

REPORT OF THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13466 OF JUNE 26, 2008, WITH RESPECT TO NORTH KOREA—PM 56

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report, which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to