

done a great job with it. So thank you, Jon.

Established in 2015, Must Read Alaska is a conservative online site that has a huge impact in Alaska. Suzanne's reporting gives voice to issues and opinions that a large part of our State can't get elsewhere, particularly in her unwavering commitment to holding the mainstream media accountable or, as Suzanne puts it, "at least on their toes."

Tens of thousands of Alaskans read Suzanne's stories on Must Read every day, in part because of her crisp prose and her point of view, but also because she is so prolific. She works 10-hour days, at least, writing two, sometimes three or more stories a day, covering local political races, national issues, foreign policy, you name it. Must Read Alaska has been so successful in Alaska in large part because she offers an outlet for conservative voices and ideas, but also because of her knowledge on many different subjects, particularly on all things Alaska. This is knowledge that comes from real world experiences, the kind of varied experiences that so many journalists lack today.

So let me talk briefly about Suzanne's interesting background. Suzanne moved to Alaska as a child in 1969, only 10 years after statehood. She lived with her family along Auke Bay near the capital city of Juneau in a small cabin on the water. Juneau would eventually be her home as an adult. In Juneau, she worked in various capacities: in the state legislature, at the University of Alaska Southeast, in shops in downtown Juneau, and as an editor of the Juneau Empire. She worked in commercial fishing in Cook Inlet and on a crab boat out of Kodiak. As I said, she has an interesting background, and there is more.

Eventually, Suzanne became a mom and finished her technical writing degree at Oregon State University. She got a job as a reporter and editor on Bainbridge Island in Washington State for the island's weekly newspaper. After 3 years, Alaska called Suzanne home once again, and she was hired as the Sunday editor of the Juneau Empire, eventually working her way to full-time editor.

Suzanne then moved to Georgia, where she was the editorial page editor for 3 years for the Augusta Chronicle before meeting her husband Patrick Yack. They moved to Florida, where she worked in the inner city for Fresh Ministries, an Episcopalian group which offered wrap-around services for the poor.

After Hurricane Katrina hit, she created a ministry called "Neighbors to the Rescue," which connected volunteers to families who had escaped the path of the hurricane and could not return to their Louisiana homes.

The cutting-edge technology she deployed in "Neighbors to the Rescue" caught then-Florida Governor Jeb Bush's attention. She was hired as the

Florida State Director for faith and community based programs, expanding "Neighbors to the Rescue" statewide.

After 7 years away, Suzanne returned to Alaska in 2007, where she worked as a philanthropic program developer for the newly-founded Alaska Community Foundation. This position reconnected her with people across the State, and the next year, she was hired by then Alaska Governor Sean Parnell to be his speechwriter. Suzanne stayed with his administration until Governor Parnell left office in 2014. The next year, Suzanne started Must Read Alaska, which indeed turned into a must-read for Alaskans of all political persuasions.

In addition to news and opinion, the site serves as a community message board of sorts, celebrating the success of local Alaskans, small businesses, and highlighting events throughout the State, uniting a large State with a small population. Importantly, in addition Suzanne's own reporting, Must Read Alaska also offers space for other conservative columnists. In fact, it is one of the things that Suzanne is most proud of. Other outlets across the State tend to shut these voices out—to their detriment. In fact, one of the sites most-read stories was by Juneau sage Paulette Simpson, who wrote a column about the ferry system.

Suzanne's job is not easy. It is grueling to write as much as she does. And I can image that it takes an emotional toll, too. She is often under attack—sometimes viciously—from those who take issue with her politics. But I know she has thick skin and takes strength from so many in Alaska who defend her. They, as well as I, fervently believe that defending your beliefs, and giving others a space to do so, is the right thing to do. And Suzanne is doing that. I also know that she is buoyed by her love of our State, our country, and by something her grandfather, the Presbyterian Reverend Robert H. Price, used to tell her: "The world will hear from you." Indeed, the good reverend, whom Suzanne was very close to, was prophetic. The world has heard from her.

The sale of Must Read Alaska is thankfully not the end of Suzanne's news career. She is still one of the board members, as well as the day-to-day manager of the publication. While remaining very hands-on, Suzanne is now happy to spend more of her summers in Skagway, AK, where she and her husband Pat plan to dote on their granddaughter Aven Rain Call.

I know I, as well as thousands of Alaskans, look forward to seeing Must Read Alaska's continued success as the conservative news source for many more years to come. With Suzanne's guidance, I know it will be. Congratulations again, Suzanne, on all of your great accomplishments, happy birthday, and thank you for all you do for our State and our country.

REMEMBERING  
COLONEL SIDNEY Z. LAWRENCE,  
M.D.

• Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the tremendous life of the late Dr. Sidney Z. Lawrence of Bethesda, MD.

Dr. Lawrence was born in Paterson, NJ, where he attended local schools and went on to St. Lawrence University before receiving his M.D. in the Netherlands. He spent 21 years in the U.S. Army, where he rose to the rank of lieutenant colonel and served as a skilled surgeon, providing critical care to servicemembers around the world. In 1986, he spent 6 months in Honduras where he helped to establish a clinic to provide care to women requiring vascular surgery and performed over 400 operations at that facility. In 1990, during the first Gulf War, he was a member of a medical unit serving in Saudi Arabia that provided care to injured combatants. When he returned home, Dr. Lawrence's last posting was at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

After retiring from the Army, he spent 14 years as an emergency room doctor. With an indefatigable dedication to his patients and the practice of medicine, Dr. Lawrence then worked in the field of occupational health until he was 78 years old.

Dr. Lawrence was interred at Arlington National Cemetery on May 16, 2024, with full military honors. I extend my deepest condolences to his wife of 59 years, Louise Lawrence-Israelis; their three daughters Judith, Naomi, and Jordana; their six grandchildren; and their great-grandson.

I trust that all members of the U.S. Senate join me in expressing our deep appreciation to Dr. Lawrence for his devoted military service helping those in uniform and their families along with the many Marylanders he cared for throughout his medical career. He will be deeply missed, but his legacy will live on in the hearts and minds of all those he touched and through his many good works.●

#### 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

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.)

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:03 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 bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 8281. An act to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to require proof of United States citizenship to register an individual to vote in elections for Federal office, and for other purposes.

## MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

H.R. 8281. An act to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to require proof of United States citizenship to register an individual to vote in elections for Federal office, and for other purposes.

S. 4727. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to clarify the nature of judicial review of agency interpretations of statutory and regulatory provisions.

## 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-5268. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Guidance for Taxpayers to Allocate Basis in Digital Assets to Wallets or Accounts as of January 1, 2025" (Rev. Proc. 2024-28) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5269. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Reporting and Penalty Relief for Brokers for Certain Digital Asset Transactions Under Section 6045" (Notice 2024-57) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5270. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Transitional Relief Under Sections 3403, 3406, 6721, 6651, and 6656 with Respect to the Reporting of Information and Backup Withholding on Digital Assets by Brokers under Section 6045" (Notice 2024-56) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5271. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Gross Proceeds and Basis Reporting by Brokers and Determination of Amount Realized and Basis for Digital Asset Transactions" (RIN1545-BP71) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5272. A communication from the Chief of Listing Policy and 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; Threatened Species Status for Pearl River Map Turtle with Section 4(d) Rule; and Threatened Species Status for Alabama Map Turtle, Barbour's Map Turtle, Escambia Map Turtle, and Pascagoula Map

Turtle Due to Similarity of Appearance with Section 4(d) Rule" (RIN1018-BF42) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 8, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5273. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Clean Air Act Operating Permit Program; California; South Coast Air Quality Management District" (FRL No. 10530-02-R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5274. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Wisconsin; Milwaukee Second 10-Year 2006 24-hour PM2.5 Limited Maintenance Plan" (FRL No. 11761-02-R5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5275. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "North Carolina: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revisions" (FRL No. 11972-02-R4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5276. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "New Source Performance Standards; Incorporation by Reference; Correction" (FRL No. 12032-01-OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5277. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Connecticut; Low Emissions Vehicles Program" (FRL No. 12048-01-R1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5278. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Pennsylvania; Interim Final Determination to Stay and Defer Sanctions Related to Reasonably Available Control Technology Requirements for Keystone, Conemaugh, Homer City and Montour Generating Facilities for the 1997 and 2008 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards" (FRL No. 12064-03-R3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

## PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petition or memorial was laid before the Senate and was referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-143. A joint memorial adopted by the legislature of the State of Colorado urging the United States Congress to fully fund the authorized thirty-five million dollars to the "Water Infrastructure Improvements for the

Nation Act" according to the recommendations of the Colorado River Drought Task Force; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

## SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 24-002

Whereas, The Ute People were the original inhabitants of what is now the state of Colorado, and the two federally recognized tribes in Colorado are the sovereign nations of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe and the Southern Ute Indian Tribe; and

Whereas, The Pine River Indian Irrigation Project, or "PRIIP", is a series of canals and ditches, largely located in southwestern Colorado on Southern Ute Indian tribal land, that is intended to bring water to tribal lands for agriculture and that was constructed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs during the late 1800s and early 1900s; and

Whereas, The PRIIP system should be providing water to approximately 14,495 acres and nearly 400 individual users, including approximately 100 non-Native users and the town of Ignacio, Colorado, but due to extreme deterioration of infrastructure, its actual output falls far below that goal; and

Whereas, The deteriorated condition of the PRIIP system means that some of its users are unable to access and use water for agricultural irrigation; this neglect has had a devastating effect on many farmers and ranchers; and

Whereas, Making efforts toward rehabilitation and improvement of the PRIIP system, the Southern Ute Indian Tribe started a multiyear program to rehabilitate portions of the PRIIP system using \$4.88 million of tribal funding in 2018, but funding to finish construction on completed engineering designs is running low; and

Whereas, in 2023, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, which still operates the PRIIP system, completed a modernization plan for the system that has a rough cost estimate of \$60.7 million, and there are other cost estimates for modernization that range as high as \$109 million; and

Whereas, PRIIP system water users pay 100% of the system's operations and maintenance annual assessments; however, these fees are simply insufficient to accomplish the necessary annual operations and maintenance work, much less the millions required to address deferred maintenance; and

Whereas, The growing disrepair of the PRIIP system has still not been adequately catalogued, though the following issues have been highlighted by studies done in 2000 and 2008 by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and illustrate the system's dilapidated condition:

- Only an estimated 15% of the PRIIP system's 175 miles of canals can be considered to be in good condition;

- Some of the system's major diversion structures date back to the 1930s, with no major rehabilitation or improvements since the early 1960s;

- The system's largest canal, the Dr. Morrison canal, which serves over 4,500 irrigable acres of Tribal land and non-Tribal land, has breached 3 times;

- The Dr. Morrison canal also has multiple large, antiquated flumes in danger of failing;

- Dozens of smaller irrigation structures constructed before the 1920s have collapsed and have simply been abandoned;

- Ditches have also been abandoned, and lands that were previously irrigated have become derelict, requiring costly rehabilitation;

- Erosion has created miles of incised channels and ditches, where elevated headgates no longer allow for the diversion of water to lands that were historically irrigated; and

- Neglect of operation and maintenance roads has made access to many structures and sections of ditch either unsafe or impossible altogether; and