

and a nod to our shared Montana way of life rooted in our passion for the great outdoors. Way to go, James; your story will forever be tied to one of the greatest catches ever made on Fort Peck Lake. You make Montana proud.●

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL MIKE MINIHAN

● Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to General Mike Minihan, U.S. Air Force. After 34 distinguished years of exceptional service to our Nation, General Minihan will soon retire from his position as commander, Air Mobility Command (AMC), Scott Air Force Base, IL.

As commander, Air Mobility Command, General Mike Minihan led U.S. Transportation Command's air component, executing the air mobility mission in support of the joint force, allies, and partners with a fleet of nearly 1,100 aircraft. The command encompasses Eighteenth Air Force, the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center, the 618th Air Operations Center, 17 wings, and two groups, which provide rapid global mobility from more than 100 locations worldwide. Nearly 104,000 Active-Duty, Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve airmen, and civilians comprise the air mobility Total Force, providing command and control of inter-theater and intra-theater airlift, air refueling, aeromedical evacuation, global air mobility support, and Presidential and senior leader air transport in support of national interests.

General Minihan entered the Air Force in April 1990 after receiving his commission through the ROTC program at Auburn University. He completed undergraduate pilot training in 1991 and has served as an aircraft commander, instructor pilot, and evaluator pilot in the C-130 Hercules. He has commanded in garrison, crisis, and combat and at the squadron, wing, and task force levels. He also held numerous joint, combined and Air Force staff assignments. Prior to his current position, General Minihan served as deputy commander for U.S. Indo-Pacific Command.

As commander, Air Mobility Command, General Minihan radically redesigned and shifted the culture of the command from a force focused on moving cargo, personnel, and fuel to the preeminent mechanism for Joint Force Maneuver. General Minihan re-envisioned Exercise Mobility Guardian in 2023, transitioning the exercise from a service-specific test of air mobility and logistics training executed over the continental United States to a joint and combined large-scale exercise in the Pacific. This exercise displayed unrivaled mobility air power, showcasing America's unique ability to provide rapid global mobility and put the world on notice that AMC can explode into theater to meet any combatant commander's requirements. In addition, General Minihan oversaw the rapid deployment of assistance to

Ukraine and, later, to Israel and Gaza, taking appropriate proactive measures to sense and seize the environment to allow the combatant commander to project and sustain forces and demonstrate U.S. resolve and will.

General Minihan retires as a command pilot with more than 3,400 flying hours and qualifications in C-130, KC-10, and C-32 aircraft. Over General Minihan's distinguished career he has earned numerous joint and Air Force decorations including the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, three Legions of Merit, six Air Medals, and seven Aerial Achievement Medals. He has also led his airmen through several joint and Air Force organizational awards recognizing team excellence that include Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Meritorious Unit Award, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Republic of Korea Cheonsu Medal, and the Order of Saint Maurice.

General Minihan has served his Nation for over three decades honorably and with passion and love for his airmen, and we thank him for all he has done for our great Nation.●

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL JACQUELINE D. VAN OVOST

● Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. President, it is with great pride and gratitude that I rise to celebrate the career of General Jacqueline D. Van Ovost, who is retiring after 36 years of honorable service in the U.S. Air Force. General Van Ovost currently serves as the commander of U.S. Transportation Command, where she is responsible for projecting and sustaining our Nation's military power globally to assure our friends, deter our adversaries, and if necessary, respond to win decisively. She has undoubtedly excelled in executing her duties.

In her time as USTRANSCOM's commander, she directed mobility operations supporting the movement of 60 Presidential Drawdown Authorities to deliver aid critical to Ukraine's defense against Russia's unprovoked invasion. Additionally, she has directed mobility forces to respond to the shifting strategic environment in western Africa, unrest in Haiti, and regional threats in the Middle East and the Red Sea, ultimately ensuring the safety of our deployed servicemembers, allies, and commercial shipping fleets from around the world.

General Van Ovost began her career at the U.S. Air Force Academy. Following her commissioning, she graduated from pilot training. Over the course of her time in service, she deployed multiple times and was one of the first women to fly in combat. She is also a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Test Pilot School, which gave her the opportunity to fly over 30 aircraft throughout her career. She commanded two flying wings, served on joint staff and as the chief of staff for Headquarters Air Force, and commanded Air Mobility Command during the non-

combatant evacuation operation from Afghanistan, moving over 124,000 evacuees to safety.

General Van Ovost is a mobility leader and strategic thinker who expertly directed those under her command and leveraged commercial support to provide the best options possible for our senior leaders. In every position that she held, she led with unmatched grace, dedication, dignity, professionalism, and respect for all those she encountered. Her character and leadership had untold positive impacts on thousands of servicemembers and their families.

She advanced our Nation's mobility and logistics capabilities, supported our allied and partner nations, and advanced our strategic objectives to defend our citizens.

General Van Ovost is a true military leader, one whom our country is endlessly grateful for having amongst its ranks. I thank her for her over 36 years of dedicated and faithful service to the United States of America.●

REMEMBERING REBECCA WENCHI WONG

● Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor and commemorate the extraordinary life of Rebecca Wenchong Wong, whose journey epitomizes resilience, sacrifice, and the pursuit of a better future for her family. Rebecca Wong's story is not just a testament to her strength and determination, but also a poignant reminder of the countless sacrifices made by immigrants in search of a better life for their families here in this country.

Born in Shanghai, China, Rebecca Wenchong Wong experienced the severe hardships of famine and political turmoil. Amidst the dire conditions of Communist China, she made the heart-wrenching decision to send her 6-year-old daughter away to safety, so that she might have a chance at life free from hunger and oppression. They were separated for 21 years, enduring the pain of isolation and absence while holding fast to hope of reunion.

In 1982, Rebecca was reunited with her daughter in Shanghai, marking the end of a long and painful separation. Her daughter Chantale Yok-Min Wong, who is now the esteemed U.S. Ambassador to the Asian Development Bank, stands as a testament to the love and sacrifices of her mother.

Rebecca's life was marked by service and resilience. Before the Cultural Revolution, she worked as a surgical nurse, eventually becoming the head of the nursing staff. During the poorest periods in Communist China's history, she served as a barefoot doctor, providing essential medical care to rural communities. This selfless service took a toll on her health, but her spirit remained unbroken.

After joining her daughter in the United States in 1990 and along with her son, Rebecca and her husband

Frank Yaoyung Wong settled in San Francisco. Despite their advanced age, they embraced their new life with vigor and curiosity, exploring new cultures and continually learning. Rebecca's sharp mind and strong will made her a central figure in her family and community.

In her later years, Rebecca and her husband became beloved members of the OnLok 30th Street Senior Center, where they engaged in various activities, enriching their lives and those around them. Even in her 90s, Rebecca remained a source of wisdom and care, particularly for her husband until his passing.

Rebecca's passing at the age of 98 marks the end of a life filled with love, sacrifice, and resilience. Her legacy lives on through her children, grandchildren, and the countless lives she touched.

I ask my colleagues in the Senate to join me in honoring the life and legacy of Rebecca Wenchu Wong for her indomitable spirit, her unwavering love for her family, and her lifelong commitment to service. Her story is a beacon of hope and inspiration for all who strive for a better future.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 1:08 p.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 bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1516. An act to establish Department of Homeland Security funding restrictions on institutions of higher education that have a relationship with Confucius Institutes, and for other purposes.

H.R. 9456. An act to amend the Defense Production Act of 1950 with respect to foreign investments in United States agriculture, 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. 1516. An act to establish Department of Homeland Security funding restrictions on institutions of higher education that have a relationship with Confucius Institutes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 9456. An act to amend the Defense Production Act of 1950 with respect to foreign investments in United States agriculture, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following concurrent resolution was discharged from the Committee on the Budget pursuant section 300 of the Congressional Budget Act and placed on the calendar:

S. Con. Res. 41. Concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year

2025 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2026 through 2034.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 8580. An act making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes.

H.R. 8771. An act making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes.

H.R. 8774. An act making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes.

H.R. 8998. An act making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 820. An act to direct the Federal Communications Commission to publish a list of entities that hold authorizations, licenses, or other grants of authority issued by the Commission and that have certain foreign ownership, and for other purposes.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. SCHATZ, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, without amendment:

S. 4000. A bill to reaffirm the applicability of the Indian Reorganization Act to the Lytton Rancheria of California, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118-223).

By Mr. SANDERS, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 4755. A bill to reauthorize traumatic brain injury programs, and for other purposes.

S. 4762. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize programs and research relating to autism, and for other purposes.

S. 4776. A bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2025 through 2029, and for other purposes.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. CASSIDY:

S. 5029. A bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to establish a research and development-intensive small biotech manufacturer exception from the Medicare drug price negotiation program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HICKENLOOPER (for himself and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 5030. A bill to establish a National Critical Minerals Council within the Executive

Office of the President to develop and coordinate the implementation of a national critical mineral strategy for the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. BUTLER (for herself and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 5031. A bill to promote a 21st century artificial intelligence workforce and to authorize the Secretary of Education to carry out a program to increase access to prekindergarten through grade 12 emerging and advanced technology education and upskill workers in the technology of the future; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. WARREN:

S. 5032. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to restrict the sale and procurement of certain weapons and ammunition by the Department of Defense, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. SMITH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 5033. A bill to amend the Child Care Access Means Parents in School Program under the Higher Education Act of 1965; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. CASEY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. SMITH, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 5034. A bill to provide additional benefits to American workers whose employment has been impacted as a result of the transition to a clean energy economy; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mrs. FISCHER):

S. 5035. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish an external provider scheduling program to assist the Department of Veterans Affairs in scheduling appointments for care and services under the Veterans Community Care Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CRUZ:

S. 5036. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the rate of the special pension payable to Medal of Honor recipients, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. KAINE, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. COONS):

S. 5037. A bill to strengthen the role of the United States with respect to the Indian Ocean region, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Ms. LUMMIS, and Mr. RICKETTS):

S. 5038. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to eliminate a waiver under that Act, to eliminate an authorization for States to use new motor vehicle emission and new motor vehicle engine emissions standards identical to standards adopted in California, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. HICKENLOOPER:

S. 5039. A bill to establish a mineral and mining innovation program within the Department of Energy to advance domestic mineral resources, economic growth, and national security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.