

RECOGNIZING VANDER HAAG'S, INC.

• Ms. ERNST. Madam 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 Vander Haag's, Inc., of Spencer, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

In 1939, John C. Vander Haag, Sr., founded South Side Junkyard in Sanborn, IA. It was initially created as a scrap metal business to support the wartime effort. However, he noticed a growing demand for truck parts throughout World War II and transformed the business into a trusted supplier of recycled truck parts. In 1955, his son John C. Vander Haag, Jr., took over and expanded the company's services and community footprint. In 1969, South Side Junkyard rebranded into Vander Haag's, Inc. They relocated its headquarters to Spencer, IA, to enhance repair services and provide an opportunity to better supply truck parts throughout the State. The company evolved into a multifunctional business, focused on customer service and community support.

Today, John M. Vander Haag, the founder's grandson, serves as the president of the company. Over three generations, Vander Haag's has grown into a full-service provider of new and used truck parts, offering services from truck repairs and equipment sales to installation and truck and trailer sales. With 11 locations and a team of over 350 people across the Midwest and Texas, Vander Haag's is recognized as a national leader in the trucking industry.

Through its products, services, and philanthropy, Vander Haag's is deeply involved in its communities. The business sponsors the Career and Technical Academy, which trains people for various job opportunities. The team also supports Woodworking with a Purpose, which has provided over 2,000 desks for schoolchildren since the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2024, Trucks, Parts, and Service recognized Vander Haag's as a Distributor of the Year finalist, marking the company's 3rd year receiving this honor.

In 1997, the Vander Haag family founded Yesterday's Memories & Truck Museum in Sanborn, showcasing antique cars, trucks, and everyday items from the past 80 years. The museum also offers space for nonprofits and other organizations to host events at little to no cost. The Vander Haag family also received the 2022 Beyond Expectations Award from the Iowa Area Development Group for its support in constructing 20 duplexes in Sanborn. Thanks to three generations of hard work, Vander Haag's will celebrate its 86th anniversary next year.

Vander Haag's commitment to high-quality service and customer satisfaction as a family-owned and operated

business is clear. I want to congratulate the Vander Haags and the entire team for their dedication to providing exceptional experiences to families in Iowa and across the country. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success in Iowa. •

TRIBUTE TO BARRY DUVAL

• Mr. Kaine. Madam President, it is my honor to recognize the distinguished career of Barry DuVal, who is retiring as the president and CEO of the Virginia Chamber of Commerce after more than 14 years in the position. I offer these comments with the support of my colleague Senator MARK WARNER.

Born and raised in Virginia, Barry began his career in public service in 1988, when he was elected to the Newport News City Council. Two years later, he became mayor of the city at just 30 years old. As mayor, he launched the city's first residential recycling program and worked to diversify the city's local economy. Following his 6 years as mayor, Barry took the helm of the Hampton Roads Partnership, a regional organization focused on economic development for a region that was then home to 1.6 million Virginians.

In 1998, Barry was appointed as secretary of commerce and trade for the Commonwealth of Virginia by then-Governor Jim Gilmore. As secretary, he successfully worked to secure 1,500 economic development projects—representing more than 156,000 new jobs and \$13.7 billion in private investment.

Barry was tapped as the president and CEO of the Virginia Chamber of Commerce in 2010. At the time, the chamber had approximately 1,000 members. Today, it counts more than 33,000 members, a testament to Barry's leadership and impact.

During his tenure at the chamber, Barry oversaw the launch of Blueprint Virginia, a comprehensive business-led plan for long-term economic development. The Blueprint has become an institution in and of itself in Virginia, with the chamber presenting an updated Blueprint at the beginning of each of the last four Governorships. It provides valuable insights to business leaders and policymakers on the direction, challenges, and opportunities facing Virginia's economy.

Barry has become a trusted leader in Virginia whose counsel is heeded by both Republican and Democratic officials. He embodies the bipartisan spirit that helps ensure Virginia's economic development strategy progresses forward, regardless of the political composition of Richmond or Washington.

The results of Barry's work and collaboration with elected officials can be seen in the regular recognition of Virginia as one of the best States to do business in. During his tenure, CNBC has ranked Virginia as the "Top State for Business" four times. Over the course of his career, Virginia's been

ranked in the top five best States for business in 10 out of 14 rankings. Similarly, Forbes has regularly had Virginia toward the top of their rankings of best States for business. In the time that Barry led the chamber, Virginia was in Forbes' top five best States to do business for 8 out of 10 years.

As Virginia's Senators, it has been our pleasure to work with Barry over the years. His impact on Virginia will be felt long after his retirement. We wish Barry well in his retirement and thank him for his service to the Commonwealth. •

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEW RIVER VALLEY RECOVERY COURT PROGRAM

• Mr. Kaine. Madam President, I rise to commend the 10th anniversary of the Recovery Court Program in the New River Valley of Virginia and extend recognition to Lori Trail, who has served as program manager and coordinator since the program's creation.

Lori Trail's service to the community is reflected in the hundreds of lives of New River Valley residents whom she has supported in their recovery journey. Her positive leadership and tireless work have paved the way for the success of Recovery Courts across five jurisdictions in Virginia, beginning in Pulaski County in 2014, and expanding to the counties of Floyd, Giles, and Montgomery, as well as the city of Radford.

Over the past decade, Lori has dedicated her life to creating opportunities for New River Valley residents in recovery. She has helped people with substance use and mental health disorders reclaim their lives and served as a bridge for people to mend relationships. Not only has her work positively impacted the participants of Recovery Courts, but their loved ones and families, as well.

Lori's staunch advocacy and dedication has raised the standards for the staff around her, and the community members she works alongside. She is an inspiration to those in the New River Valley and across the Commonwealth. Although her success can be measured through each life she has guided through the program, her influence on the New River Valley is immeasurable, and her legacy will remain as an embodiment of compassion, service, and hope. •

TRIBUTE TO GLEN STUBBE

• Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, I rise today to honor Glen Stubbe, an incredible photojournalist who is leaving the Minnesota Star Tribune after 26 years.

Through his lens, Glen has captured the lives and livelihoods of Minnesotans from all walks of life, each image telling a story words alone never could.

As someone who has had the privilege of being on the other side of Glen's camera—at press conferences, the

State fair, and everywhere in between—I can tell you that what Glen brings to his craft is more than just a keen eye for lighting, color, and perspective. What sets his work apart is his deep understanding of the people he photographs.

A Glen Stubbe photo isn't simply a well-composed frame; it is a one-of-a-kind reflection of humanity. Over the course of his more than two decades at the Star Tribune, Glen has built a level of trust with his subjects that is rare at a time when journalists are too often met with skepticism. Whether he is covering farmers or firefighters, police officers or the President of the United States, he has always approached his subjects with respect.

For hundreds of thousands of Minnesotans, that small print in the parentheses below a photo—"Glen Stubbe/Star Tribune"—is as much a part of our State's largest newspaper as the Vikings scores, the editorials, or even the newsprint itself.

So today, I celebrate Glen Stubbe, a Minnesota institution; Glen Stubbe, the Star Tribune's own in-house historian with a camera; Glen Stubbe, a man for whom photojournalism is more than a profession—it is an art.

Glen, your images are an immortal visual record of who Minnesotans are and what we have been. Our state and country are better because of you.

I wish you all the best.●

TRIBUTE TO ROSALYNN BLISS

●Mr. PETERS. Madam President, I rise today to honor and recognize an accomplished leader in Michigan's second largest city, Rosalynn Bliss, mayor of the city of Grand Rapids. Mayor Bliss has made an immeasurable impact on the city of Grand Rapids and its citizens during her tenure as mayor over the last 8 years. It is a privilege to recognize her today and celebrate her many accomplishments.

Mayor Bliss' penchant for public service started long before being elected as mayor. She entered public service in 2005, serving 10 years as a city commissioner for the second ward. During her time as a city commissioner, she led a blue-ribbon panel on parks, was a founding member of the nonprofit organization Friends of Grand Rapids Parks, and served on the millage campaign for parks, pools, and playgrounds.

Mayor Bliss was elected as Grand Rapids' mayor in 2015, receiving a whopping 66 percent of the vote. When she took office in 2016, she became Grand Rapids' first female mayor and the city's youngest mayor in 130 years. During her time in office, Mayor Bliss championed and accomplished several initiatives that moved Grand Rapids forward. She implemented implicit bias training for all city workers, created a fund to help local neighborhoods complete improvement projects, tackled blight by holding property owners accountable, worked to provide a city

park within walking distance to all residents, and invested in affordable housing projects. Perhaps, most notably, she championed an initiative to restore the Grand River rapids that run through downtown. Her legacy of practical, pragmatic, and equitable leadership will be felt by the city for many years to come.

In addition to serving her community in elected roles, Mayor Bliss has had a successful professional career. After graduating from the University of South Alabama with a degree in psychology and criminal justice, she moved to Grand Rapids and worked at Hope Network while pursuing her master's degree in social work from Michigan State University. She has dedicated her career to helping the most vulnerable in our communities, serving as the director of residential services at DA Blodgett-St. John's, an organization which provides emergency shelter and residential services for abused and neglected children.

Mayor Bliss has been recognized by numerous organizations for her impactful work. She has received many awards, including, among others, the Michigan Women Forward's Women of Achievement and Courage Award, U.S. Conference of Mayors Small Business Advocate Award, Tim Pope Memorial Award for Outstanding Young Governmental Leader, Christine Nelson Professional Award for Service to Children, and the Michigan Professional Society on the Abuse of Children Special Recognition Award.

Community involvement for Mayor Bliss extends far beyond her elected role. She serves on several community boards including the Grand Rapids Downtown Development Authority, Housing Kent, Urban Core Mayors, Economic Club of Grand Rapids, and the Interurban Transit Partnership. Her love for and service to the Grand Rapids community knows no bounds.

I cannot understate the impact that Mayor Bliss has had on the Grand Rapids community during her years of public service. A lifelong advocate for the betterment of her community, she has consistently promoted positive change in her community and created a model for public service that is unmatched. Though her leadership as mayor will be sorely missed, I am confident she will continue to make a positive difference in the community for years to come.●

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 and a withdrawal 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 3:02 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, 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. 9495. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to postpone tax deadlines and reimburse paid late fees for United States nationals who are unlawfully or wrongfully detained or held hostage abroad, to terminate the tax-exempt status of terrorist supporting organizations, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 803(a) of the Congressional Recognition for Excellence in Arts Education Act (2 U.S.C. 803(a)), and the order of the House of January 9, 2023, the Speaker appoints the following individuals on the part of the House of Representatives to the Congressional Award Board: Ms. Brenda Larsen Becker of Alexandria, Virginia, Ms. Susan Brackin Hirschmann of Alexandria, Virginia, and Ms. Sylvia Legere of Wilmette, Illinois.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on November 21, 2024, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 3126. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish or replace a headstone, marker, or medallion for the grave of an eligible Medal of Honor recipient regardless of the recipient's dates of service in the Armed Forces, 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-6622. A communication from the Program Analyst, Rural Utilities Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Policy on Audits of RUS Awardees" (RIN0572-AC67) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 25, 2024; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6623. A communication from the Program Analyst, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Soybean Promotion and Research: Adjustments to Representation on the United Soybean Board" (Docket No. AMS-LP-23-0079) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 25, 2024; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6624. A communication from the Program Analyst, Rural Housing Services, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled