

*Rule 4.—Delegation and Authority to the Chair and Vice Chair*

(a) The Chair and Vice Chair are authorized to sign all necessary vouchers and routine papers for which the committee's approval is required and to decide on the committee's behalf on all routine business.

(b) The Chair is authorized to engage commercial reporters for the preparation of transcripts of committee meetings and hearings.

(c) The Chair is authorized to issue, on behalf of the committee, regulations normally promulgated by the committee at the beginning of each session.

#### TRIBUTE TO ADDIE BING

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Addie for her hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Addie is a native of Pinedale. She attends Casper College, where she is studying to obtain her associates of science in general studies and her private pilot license. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Addie for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her journey.

#### TRIBUTE TO WILLOW LINDHOLM

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Willow for her hard work as an intern in my Sheridan office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Willow is a native of Sundance. She attends Sheridan College, where she is studying to obtain her associates of science in social science. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Willow for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her journey.

#### TRIBUTE TO EIRINI MARINAKI

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Eirini for her hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, whip office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Eirini is a native of Athens, Greece. She attends Georgetown University,

where she is studying to obtain her bachelor's in political science and economics. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Eirini for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her journey.

#### TRIBUTE TO KASSIDY THOMAS

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Kassidy for her hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Kassidy is a native of Casper. She recently graduated from the University of Wyoming with a bachelor's in psychology and criminal justice. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Kassidy for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her journey.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### REMEMBERING GRANT SMITH

• Mr. BOOKER. Madam President, it is with a heavy heart that I would like to make a statement to honor the extraordinary life and service of a great advocate: Mr. Grant Smith. Grant spent a lifetime working on issues to advance fair justice system.

Most recently, Grant worked with my team on the Re-Entry Support Through Opportunities for Resources and Essentials Act, known as the RE-STORE Act. In all of his work with my team, he showed great professionalism, dedication, and care.

Our movement for better drug policy is forever indebted to his service. Grant and his family are in my prayers.●

##### RECOGNIZING THE BRICK KITCHEN

• Ms. ERNST. Madam President, as chair 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 The Brick Kitchen of Independence, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

In 2021, husband and wife Nate and Shelly Whited founded The Brick

Kitchen in Independence, IA. Inspired by their love for cooking and spending time in the kitchen with their children Tia and Will, the couple envisioned a space where culinary enthusiasts could find high-quality kitchen tools and gadgets. Before opening, the couple purchased the historic King's Hall—the all-brick opera house originally built in 1876—and renamed part of it The Brick Kitchen. Through the help of friends and family and hard work, Nate and Shelly updated and refurbished the building, trying their best to keep its historic charm. In May 2021, The Brick Kitchen was officially open for business.

Today, The Brick Kitchen remains in its 20,000-square-foot building, offering a wide array of kitchen products and services, including cutlery, cookware, food preparation supplies, in-house knife sharpening, and more. The company also receives batches of flavor-infused olive oils and balsamic vinegar from a Montana-based small business, which the team securely bottles, labels, and sells in-store. Most recently, in April 2023, The Brick Kitchen expanded its operation by opening an instructional kitchen for demonstrations and hands-on cooking classes. With a team of 12 community employees, The Brick Kitchen is committed to quality, durability, and ease of use products, making the store a beloved retail destination for residents and visitors alike.

The Brick Kitchen is a member of the Independence Chamber of Commerce, and in 2021, the chamber awarded the Entrepreneurs of the Year as well as the Business of the Year to both Shelly and Nate. The Brick Kitchen is also a member of the HTI Buying Group, supporting local initiatives and industry partnerships. In addition, Shelly served on the Independence School Board for 7 years, including a term as president. Nate serves on the city board of adjustments and contributes his time to coaching varsity soccer. He also serves on the Independence Aquatic Center Improvement Board. The Brick Kitchen actively supports local schools, events, and organizations through funding and gifts. Additionally, in 2000, Nate was a founding member of the Independence Fourth of July board, helping grow the event from hundreds of people to 30,000 attendees each year. In 2023, Shelly and Nate made NCAA history by signing 18 members of the University of Iowa Mellophone section of the marching band to a Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) deal, making The Brick Kitchen the first to provide this type of deal to student musicians. This May, The Brick Kitchen will celebrate its fourth anniversary in Iowa.

The Brick Kitchen's active community involvement as well as their commitment to excellence are clear. I want to congratulate Shelly and Nate Whited, their children, and their team for providing high-quality kitchen products and services to families across

Iowa. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success.●

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:05 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 bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 706. An act to improve the biodetection functions of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1156. An act to amend the CARES Act to extend the statute of limitations for fraud under certain unemployment programs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1692. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to enable secure and trustworthy technology through other transaction contracting authority, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following joint resolution, in which it request the concurrence of the Senate:

H.J. Res. 25. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Internal Revenue Service relating to "Gross Proceeds Reporting by Brokers That Regularly Provide Services Effectuating Digital Asset Sales".

The message further announced that the House agrees to the resolution (H.Res. 212) returning to the Senate the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 3), providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Internal Revenue Service relating to "Gross Proceeds Reporting by Brokers That Regularly Provide Services Effectuating Digital Asset Sales", and, in the opinion of this House, contravenes the first clause of the seventh section of the first article of the Constitution of the United States and is an infringement of the privileges of this House and that such joint resolution be respectfully returned to the Senate with a message communicating this resolution.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 706. An act to improve the biodetection functions of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 1692. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to enable secure and trustworthy technology through other transaction contracting authority, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

#### MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following joint resolution was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.J. Res. 25. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of

title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Internal Revenue Service relating to "Gross Proceeds Reporting by Brokers That Regularly Provide Services Effectuating Digital Asset Sales".

#### MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

H.R. 1156. An act to amend the CARES Act to extend the statute of limitations for fraud under certain unemployment programs, and for other purposes.

S. 1008. A bill to provide equitable treatment for the people of the Village Corporation established for the Native Village of Saxman, Alaska, and for other purposes.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. MORAN, from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs:

Special Report entitled "Legislative and Oversight Activities During the 118th Congress by the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs." (Rept. No. 119-2).

#### EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. RISCH for the Committee on Foreign Relations.

\*Matthew Whitaker, of Iowa, to be United States Permanent Representative on the Council of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, with the rank and status of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary.

Nominee: Matthew G. Whitaker.

Post: US Ambassador to NATO.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

Matthew Whitaker, \$47.00, 10/28/2024, WINRED; \$47.00, 10/27/2024, WINRED; \$47.00, 10/17/2024, WINRED; \$5,000, 07/15/2024, Trump 47 Committee; \$200, 07/08/2024, Rep. Party of Iowa; \$90, 07/01/2024, Rep. Party of Iowa; \$50.00, 04/27/2024, WINRED; \$68.00, 10/22/2023, WINRED; \$50.00, 06/20/2024, WINRED; \$1,000.00, 10/22/2022, CPAC ACTION PAC.

Alison Whitaker (daughter), \$10, 10/22/2022, Kari Lake.

\*Christopher Landau, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of State.

\*Michael Rigas, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources.

By Mr. GRAHAM for the Committee on the Budget.

\*James Bishop, of North Carolina, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

By Mr. CRUZ for the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

\*Mark Meador, of Virginia, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner for the term of seven years from September 26, 2024.

\*Michael Kratsios, of South Carolina, to be Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy.

By Mr. MORAN for the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

\*Paul Lawrence, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

\*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

#### 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. LEE:

S. 973. A bill to establish a task force for regulatory oversight and review; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CURTIS (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 974. A bill to direct the Secretary of the State to seek to enter into negotiations with the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office to rename its office the "Taiwan Representative Office", and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. KAINE (for himself and Mr. PADILLA):

S. 975. A bill to establish a grant program to support schools of medicine and schools of osteopathic medicine in underserved areas; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 976. A bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to reduce fraudulent enrollments in qualified health plans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. BUDD, Ms. GRAHAM, Mr. SHEEHY, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BANKS, Mr. WICKER, Mr. LEE, Ms. LUMMIS, and Mr. RISCH):

S. 977. A bill to prohibit taxpayer-funded gender transition procedures, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. MOODY (for herself, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. CASSIDY, and Mr. WARNOCK):

S. 978. A bill to amend the National Housing Act to establish a mortgage insurance program for first responders, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. BANKS:

S. 979. A bill to promote defense innovation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. SUL-LIVAN, and Mr. LUJÁN):

S. 980. A bill to establish an intermodal transportation infrastructure pilot program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. PETERS, Mr. YOUNG, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 981. A bill to amend the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended to clarify that the obligation of individuals who formerly served as agents of foreign principals to register as foreign agents under the Act is continuing with respect to activities carried out previously on behalf of such foreign principals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BANKS (for himself and Mr. RICKETTS):