

apply for financial aid. Noel also spearheaded the creation of RISLA's College Planning Center, a free service that works directly with thousands of students to guide them through the college application process, including everything from writing a strong essay to selecting a college that best fits their goals. As the father of a high school senior, I can personally attest to the invaluable service the College Planning Center provides.

Today, RISLA helps thousands of Rhode Islanders plan for and finance college, a number that has grown exponentially under Noel's leadership. His dedication has opened the door of higher education for a generation of Rhode Islanders. That is a legacy that has made a difference for our State and for students and families.

I join so many of Noel's colleagues and peers in thanking him for his friendship and kindness and in wishing him a happy and healthy retirement, filled with new adventures, in the company of his wife Patti and their children. He has earned it.

RECOGNIZING THE ROBERT J. DOLE VA MEDICAL CENTER AND THE CITY OF WICHITA

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President. I rise today to recognize the Robert J. Dole VA Medical Center and the city of Wichita for their exceptional commitment to providing world-class healthcare to our Nation's veterans.

Recently, Wichita was recognized as the top city in the Nation for veterans' healthcare. This recognition highlights the unwavering dedication of the staff of the Robert J. Dole VA Medical Center and city leadership in delivering accessible, high-quality, and compassionate healthcare to those who served our country.

For the second year in a row, the Dole VA received the maximum 5-star rating from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services—a remarkable achievement that places the Dole VA in the top 8 percent of hospitals nationwide. This 5-star rating highlights the Dole VA's commitment to not only meet but exceed the standards of the healthcare industry.

In addition to the 5-star rating, the Dole VA ranked first among 132 VA hospitals nationwide for access to specialty care. It offers the shortest average wait time in the country for existing patients to see a cardiologist—just 3.8 days. The Dole VA also ranks second in the Nation for both routine specialty care access, at 95 percent, and urgent specialty care access, at 90 percent. Additionally, it holds the third-shortest wait time for new patients seeking pulmonology services. These accomplishments are a testament to the outstanding leadership and the tireless dedication of the staff at the Dole VA.

The city of Wichita is also playing a vital role in providing care for our Nation's veterans, particularly in the

area of mental health. Wichita ranks fifth in the Nation for access to mental health services, offering the seventh shortest average wait time for existing patients to access care—just 0.3 days—and the ninth shortest for new patients, at only 1.4 days. Additionally, Wichita ranks sixth nationally in overall hospital care quality and holds the eighth shortest wait time for existing patients seeking primary care. These distinctions reflect a city deeply committed to ensuring those in need receive the high-quality healthcare necessary.

As a country, we owe a great debt to those who served, and the Dole VA and the city of Wichita are setting the standard for how that debt should be paid. I now ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the Robert J. Dole VA Medical Center and the city of Wichita for these exceptional achievements. Furthermore, I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking the dedicated healthcare workforce in Wichita for their unwavering commitment to serving those who have worn the uniform.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING MIKE MOLSTEAD MOTORS

• Ms. ERNST. Mr. 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 Mike Molstead Motors of Charles City, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

In 1982, while attending the University of Northern Iowa and playing football, Mike Molstead began selling cars at a local dealership in Cedar Falls, IA. He worked his way up to general sales manager before deciding to open his own dealership. In 1995, encouraged by his wife Paula and with the financial backing of two friends, Mike opened Mike Molstead Motors in Charles City, IA, and purchased the entire business within a year. In the early days of operation, Molstead Motors primarily sold General Motors cars, but in 1997, the dealership outgrew its downtown location and moved to the outskirts of Charles City to make room for Chevrolet, Buick, and Cadillac vehicles. In 2012, shortly after an expansion to sell Ford vehicles, Mike acquired a neighboring Chrysler dealership and opened a second location across the street. In 2021, the growing business further expanded its lineup by adding GMC trucks to the new Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, and Ram center.

Today, Mike Molstead Motors continues to operate from two locations in Charles City and employs over 75 loyal team members across three core divisions: sales, service and parts, and detailing. The business's emphasis on

real-time market pricing and personalized financing, in addition to top-tier auto repair and detail servicing, cemented the dealership's positive reputation across Iowa. Today, Mike's sons have stepped up to take part in the family business. Jordan and Josh serve as vice presidents of the company, Jackson works as a sales manager, and Jared—alongside his wife Kelly—leads the business development center.

Beyond the business, Mike Molstead Motors maintains a strong presence in the greater Charles City area. As a former football and basketball coach at the local high school, Mike is proud to have contributed over \$400,000 to Charles City schools over the years, including a \$150,000 donation to complete a new gym at Charles City Middle School. Mike Molstead Motors also recently collaborated with other local businesses to donate over \$36,000 to the Charles City Police Department to purchase specialized ballistic equipment, in addition to frequently loaning cars to local law enforcement for canine training sessions. In recent years, the business has partnered with the Waterloo Black Hawks for Hockey Fights Cancer Night, donating over \$10,000 to the American Cancer Society this past February. The dealership regularly hosts fundraisers like Ford Drive 4 UR School and participates in community associations, including the Charles City Chamber of Commerce, the Charles City Area Development Corporation, and the Charles City Lions Club. In 2023, CarGurus named Mike Molstead Motors a Top-Rated Dealer and awarded the dealership with their third Customer First Award for Excellence. In 2021, TIME Magazine named Mike as a top five national finalist for the TIME Dealer of the Year award.

The entrepreneurial drive and commitment to community demonstrated by Mike Molstead Motors is clear. As they celebrate their 30th anniversary this year, I want to congratulate the Molstead family and the entire team at Mike Molstead Motors for their hard work and leadership in both business and service. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success.●

RECOGNIZING WILTON CANDY KITCHEN

• Ms. ERNST. Mr. 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 Wilton Candy Kitchen of Wilton, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

After attending Iowa's Wilton Fair, Gus Nopoulos and his friend inquired about renting the recently closed confectionery that still housed a soda fountain and its original fixtures. Shortly thereafter, Gus opened the Candy Kitchen on June 10, 1910, delighting customers with Cherry Cokes,

hand-dipped ice cream, homemade chocolate, and more. When Gus moved here, he only knew two English words—"thank you"—but built the Candy Kitchen into a cornerstone of the community, enduring the Great Depression and World War II.

What began as a dream and cost \$8 per month in rental space, turned into a reality for Gus through hard work and perseverance. In 1946, Gus' son George returned from World War II and purchased the Candy Kitchen alongside his wife Thelma. For over 66 years, the couple operated the parlor. Over the years, the Nopoulos family ensured that the Candy Kitchen thrived through generations of change. In 2015, Lynn and Brenda Ochiltree assumed ownership and have preserved the business as an American time capsule with original booths, mirrors, and the 1951 marble soda fountain that is still used to this day. The couple, along with eight community employees, manages the store 7 days a week. The Candy Kitchen serves up all things sweet, including a handmade soda fountain, hot chocolate, ice cream, and savory favorites such as sandwiches and chicken salad.

Today, the eighth generation of patrons still has the Candy Kitchen to call home, just as their great-grandparents did. The Candy Kitchen is believed to be the oldest ongoing ice cream parlor and soda fountain in the United States. The business has received statewide and national attention, including coverage from Iowa Public Television and multiple nominations for USA Today's "Best Candy Store in America." In 2024, Brenda Ochiltree was recognized by the Iowa Restaurant Association as one of "40 Women to Watch" in the industry.

The Ochiltrees continue to support historical preservation efforts by founding the Wilton Archives, a non-profit dedicated to documenting the city's history. The Candy Kitchen is actively involved in the Wilton community through the chamber of commerce, Wilton Historical Society, and the Wilton Alumni Association. Additionally, each spring, the Ochiltrees treat more than 700 students throughout the Wilton elementary and junior high schools to an ice cream day where students across the county can learn about Wilton and the Candy Kitchen's rich history while enjoying free ice cream. In June, the Wilton Candy Kitchen will proudly celebrate its 115th anniversary this year.

The entrepreneurial spirit and community commitment shown by the Candy Kitchen is clear. I want to congratulate Lynn and Brenda Ochiltree, the Nopoulos, and all who have helped preserve this slice of Americana. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success for generations to come.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to

the Senate by Mr. Hanley, 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.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 2004(b), and the order of the House of January 3, 2025, the Speaker appoints the following Member on the part of the House of Representatives to the Board of Trustees of the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation: Ms. STEFANIK of New York.

The message also announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 6913, and the order of the House of January 3, 2025, the Speaker appoints the following Members on the part of the House of Representatives to the Congressional-Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China: Ms. STEFANIK of New York and Mr. NUNN of Iowa.

The message further announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276h, and the order of the House of January 3, 2025, the Speaker appoints the following Members on the part of the House of Representatives to the Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Group: Mr. MCCAUL of Texas, Chair, Mr. VALADAO of California, Mr. GIMENEZ of Florida, Mr. CISCOMANI of Arizona, and Ms. DE LA CRUZ of Texas.

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-773. A communication from the Congressional and Public Affairs Specialist, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Additions to the Entity List" (RIN0694-AK08) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 10, 2025; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-774. A communication from the Congressional and Public Affairs Specialist, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Additions and Modifications to the Entity List" (RIN0694-AK04) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 10, 2025; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-775. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13338 with respect to Syria;

to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-776. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13667 with respect to the Central African Republic; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-777. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13894 with respect to the situation in and in relation to Syria; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-778. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator of the Diversion Control Division, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Schedules of Controlled Substances: Placement of 2-Methyl AP-237 in Schedule I" (Docket No. DEA-1245) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 24, 2025; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-779. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator of the Diversion Control Division, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Schedules of Controlled Substances: Placement of Etodesnitazene, N-Pyrrolidino Etonitazene, and Protonitazene in Schedule I" (Docket No. DEA-900) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 24, 2025; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-780. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator of the Diversion Control Division, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Schedules of Controlled Substances: Extension of Temporary Placement of Butonitazene, Flunitazene, and Metodesnitazene in Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act" (Docket No. DEA-900E) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 24, 2025; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-781. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator of the Diversion Control Division, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Schedules of Controlled Substances: Placement of Butonitazene, Flunitazene, and Metodesnitazene in Schedule I" (Docket No. DEA-900N) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 24, 2025; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-782. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator of the Diversion Control Division, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Schedules of Controlled Substances: Placement of Ethylphenidate in Schedule I" (Docket No. DEA-1142) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 24, 2025; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-783. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator of the Diversion Control Division, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Schedules of Controlled Substances: Placement of Zuranolone in Schedule I" (Docket No. DEA-1258) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 24, 2025; to the Committee on the Judiciary.