

Aedan Frederick Marr will be attending the U.S. Military Academy at West Point after his graduation from Corner Canyon High School. He served as captain of the track and field team and lettered on the state champion football team. The Eagle Scout earned two Gold Eagle Palms, a Silver Eagle Palm, and two Bronze Eagle Palms. He was a leader in JROTC, serving as a squad leader, platoon sergeant, and acting company commander. He lived in Germany where both his mother and father served in the Army.

Keon Matinkhah, from Salt Lake City, has accepted an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy. He attended the Northwestern Preparatory Academy after graduating from the American Preparatory Academy, where he served two years as student body president. As captain of the Speech and Debate team, he took first in the state for Oratory. He is an accomplished road cyclist and was a member of the Ascent Cycling Club. He participates in Ironman and Spartan races and has raised money for cancer research through his racing.

Kaitlyn Olivia Meyer was proud to accept her appointment to the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy. She will soon graduate from Skyridge High School in Lehi. Kait attended Girls State, is a member of the National Honor Society, and is active in her church youth group. She joined the Air Force JROTC and participated on the Raiders team. Kait is captain of the track and field team and was a leader on both her high school and club soccer teams, where she was the game MVP five times and the defensive MVP eight times.

Ian McKay Nielsen will join the midshipmen at the U.S. Naval Academy after graduating from West High School. A 4.0 student with a heavy load of AP classes, Ian still found time for the Arabic Club and the Boy Scouts. He led the wrestling team in high school and is a champion Sport Bike and SuperMoto racer. He joins a long family legacy of military service that includes his brother, who graduated from the Naval Academy in 2025, his sister in Air Force ROTC, and grandfathers, who each have their own noble records of service.

Samantha Pope will follow in her father's footsteps and attend the U.S. Air Force Academy. The volleyball captain helped her Lone Peak High School volleyball team earn two state championships. Not to be outdone, her basketball team also earned two state championships. Sam has been preparing academically and physically for the academy since she was young. The natural leader remembered those who helped her with her community service as she prepared bags for 2,500 teachers through *Show Up For Teachers*.

Theodore Sun Segrist will be joining his sister at the U.S. Naval Academy. He has been living in Hong Kong with his family and attending the Chinese International School. Teo has made a name for himself as a champion rugby athlete. While challenging himself with an International Baccalaureate class load, he has also tutored refugees in Hong Kong, and helped develop a video game, through *Games for Change*, to educate young people about ocean pollution. He plays piano and enjoys studying military history and taking time out to ski and scuba dive.

Joseph M. Smith, from Santa Clara, has accepted an appointment to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. A 4.0 student from Snow Canyon High School, Joseph excelled in his AP and concurrent enrollment classes. The senior class president attended Boys State and served as a youth city councilman, and as captain of his football team. His skill in javelin helped his track and field team win two state championships. He participated in Air Force JROTC where he

served as staff sergeant. Joseph hosts a religious podcast and enjoys hunting and pickleball.

William Nakanelua Stant will be attending the U.S. Air Force Academy after graduating from Pine View High School in St. George. Active in Air Force ROTC, William served in many leadership positions—including drill commander and the unit executive officer—and participated in the JROTC drill team, color guard, and Raiders team. He earned the Air & Space Forces Association. He was captain of the high school swimming team and vice-president of the Ping Pong club. He joins several members of his family in military service, including his great-uncle who was a Navajo Code Talker.

Abigail Thornton, a student of West High School, will join her brother and other cadets at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. She was very active in high school, taking a number of AP and International Baccalaureate courses and joining the soccer, basketball, and track and field teams. In addition to serving as the captain of her high school soccer team and twice earning the team MVP, she also plays for a number of club soccer teams. She was a member of the National Honor Society, Key Club, Hope Squad, and Environmental club.

Bradley Rex Thornton will be returning to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point with his sister after serving a church mission in Texas Fort Worth. He graduated from West High School where he served as captain of the basketball team and as a student body officer. He coordinated school assemblies and joined both the German Club and Health Occupation Students of America (HOSA). Bradley was active in the Boy Scouts and achieved the rank of Eagle Scout.

Caleb Bradley Watson will be returning to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point after serving a church mission in Misión Chile Concepción. Caleb originally entered the academy in 2022 after graduating from Hillcrest High School. During high school, he was captain of the baseball team and was a member of the National Honor Society. He attended Boys State and served on the Draper Mayor's Youth City Council. He was active in the Boy Scouts where he earned the rank of Eagle Scout.

Preston Lee Whatcott accepted an appointment to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. The Corner Canyon High School student continues the academy and military tradition in his family but wanted West Point over following his brother and father to the Air Force Academy. He is an excellent student, who has been studying Chinese for over twelve years. Preston is an Eagle Scout and has been a leader in his church youth group and on the Draper Mayor's Youth City Council. In addition to playing football, he also enjoys golf, track, and filming and editing videos.

It has been inspiring to meet with and nominate each of these exceptional young men and women. They give me great hope for the future of our armed services and confidence in the future of our Nation.

To these 21 appointees and to all their future classmates from around the country, I thank you for your commitment to service and commend your achievements. While this is but the beginning of your journey, I urge you to remember the foundation of your success thus far.

You would not have arrived at this point without the dedication and example of your parents, family, teachers, coaches, and mentors. Moreover, you

would not have arrived at this point without your own sacrifice and hard work.

Strive to continue on the path of strong moral character, and to keep love of country as a guiding principle. Look to the past with gratitude and to the future with conviction. If you stay this course, I have no doubt that your future holds great things in store. I look forward to your continued service to our country.●

TRIBUTE TO PAUL "PUCK" ESPOSITO

● Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, in Alabama, we take a lot of pride in honoring and supporting the heroes who have served in our Nation's military. But it takes people who are dedicated to this mission 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

No one embodies this cause better than Captain Paul "Puck" Esposito of Auburn, AL. The son of a World War II and Korean war veteran, Puck followed in his father's footsteps and joined the Navy in 1986. Puck spent 30 years in Active Duty as a Navy aviator. From flying grey helicopters, serving on an exchange tour with the Canadian Air Force, to spending 8 years at sea—you name it, Puck did it. He was sent on nine long deployments and served in every theatre the Navy has a presence in.

A native of Long Island, Puck found himself settling down over 1,000 miles from home in Auburn, AL. Upon taking charge of Auburn University's Navy ROTC unit, Puck and his wife Dana quickly fell in love with the Plains. After retiring from Active Duty in 2016, he was offered the position to direct the Auburn University Veterans Resource Center. It was in this role at Auburn that Puck, a career Navyman—and a native Northeasterner—embraced all that the South has to offer.

His role at the vets resource center has been an essential part of filling the gaps for Auburn student-veterans and military-affiliated students. Though the center is largely focused on providing academic resources for its participants, Puck has taken a deeper approach. In addition to educational support, Puck and his team have worked to combat critical issues such as veteran suicide, food insecurity, and homelessness.

Under the last decade of Puck's leadership, Auburn's vets resource center has expanded from supporting 600 students to 2,100 currently. They put on events like Project Iron Ruck and help Auburn recognize and honor veterans at many of the university's athletic events.

We are proud to now call Puck one of our own, and we are grateful for all he does to support our veterans. It is my honor to recognize Puck Esposito as the May Veteran of the Month.●

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 MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a withdrawal which was referred to the appropriate committee.

(The message received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGES

REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13667 OF MAY 12, 2014, WITH RESPECT TO THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC—PM 24

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to the Central African Republic declared in Executive Order 13667 of May 12, 2014, is to continue in effect beyond May 12, 2025.

The situation in and in relation to the Central African Republic, which has been marked by a breakdown of law and order; intersectarian tension; widespread violence and atrocities; and the pervasive, often forced recruitment and use of child soldiers, including widespread violence and atrocities committed by Kremlin-linked entities such as the Wagner Group, threatens the peace, security, or stability of the Central African Republic and neighboring states, and continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13667.

DONALD J. TRUMP,
THE WHITE HOUSE, May 7, 2025.

REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13338 OF MAY 11, 2004, WITH RESPECT TO THE ACTIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SYRIA—PM 25

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to the actions of the Government of Syria declared in Executive Order 13338 of May 11, 2004—as modified in scope and relied upon for additional steps taken in Executive Order 13399 of April 25, 2006, Executive Order 13460 of February 13, 2008, Executive Order 13572 of April 29, 2011, Executive Order 13573 of May 18, 2011, Executive Order 13582 of August 17, 2011, Executive Order 13606 of April 22, 2012, and Executive Order 13608 of May 1, 2012—is to continue in effect beyond May 11, 2025.

Syria's lack of structure and limited governance capability with respect to chemical weapons and combatting terrorist organizations continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue in effect the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13338.

The United States will consider changes in policies and actions of Syria in determining whether to continue or terminate this national emergency in the future.

DONALD J. TRUMP,
THE WHITE HOUSE, May 7, 2025.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 1668. A bill to amend chapter 131 of title 5, United States Code, to prohibit the President, Vice President, Members of Congress, and individuals appointed to Senate-confirmed positions from issuing, sponsoring, or endorsing certain financial instruments, and for other purposes.

PRIVILEGED NOMINATION REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

On request by Senator MARTIN HEINRICH, under the authority of S. Res. 116,

112th Congress, the following nomination was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Tina Pierce, of Idaho, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Energy.

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 Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. KING):

S. 1632. A bill to provide for greater defense workforce integration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. LUJÁN (for himself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. RISCH, and Mr. WELCH):

S. 1633. A bill to require the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology to establish a pilot program that uses testbeds to develop measurement standards for the evaluation of artificial intelligence systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. HAWLEY, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 1634. A bill to promote competition and reduce consumer switching costs in the provision of online communications services; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CRAMER (for himself and Mr. GALLEGO):

S. 1635. A bill to amend the National Housing Act to authorize State-licensed appraisers to conduct appraisals in connection with mortgages insured by the FHA and to ensure compliance with the existing appraiser education and competency requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. ROUNDS:

S. 1636. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to establish oversight mediation committees to help resolve property boundary disputes regarding National Forest System land, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. MULLIN (for himself, Ms. HASSAN, and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina):

S. 1637. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to codify value-based purchasing arrangements under the Medicaid program and reforms related to price reporting under such arrangements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Ms. ROSEN):

S. 1638. A bill to protect the United States from artificial intelligence applications based in or affiliated with countries of concern, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. LANKFORD, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. DAINES, Mr. WARNER, Mr. BARASSO, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. PETERS, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. KELLY, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. KAINE, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mrs. FISCHER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. COONS, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. KING, Mr. BUDD, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. HUSTED, and Mr. HEINRICH):