

2006, Amber started a new role as administrative manager for Wyoming's U.S. Senator Craig Thomas. When I was appointed to the U.S. Senate in June 2007, Amber agreed to stay on board and continue working for the people of Wyoming.

As my deputy chief of staff, she has served with distinction, professionalism, and grace. Since day one, Amber has helped guide my office. She was always the first staffer to get into the office every day. Her dependability, dedication, and organizational skills made Amber an indispensable member of my team. She also routinely went above and beyond to make sure our staff had the resources they needed to succeed at work and at home.

While we are all sad to see Amber go, we are all happy to know she is retiring to sunny Florida with her beloved husband Shane and daughter Alexandra. I am grateful Amber chose to dedicate her career to helping make Wyoming and our country a better place. We wish her every success as she embarks on this new adventure.

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. GALLEGO. Mr. President, I missed the following votes, but had I been present, I would have voted: no on rollcall vote No. 302, motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 117, Andrew Hughes, to be Deputy Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

I missed the following votes, but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 303, confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 117, Andrew Hughes, to be Deputy Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

I missed the following votes, but had I been present, I would have voted yes on rollcall vote No. 323, confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 138, Daniel Zimmerman, to be Assistant Secretary of Defense.

#### TRIBUTE TO COLONEL DARIN J. DURAND

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Col. Darin Durand, a great American and an exceptional member of the U.S. Air Force.

As the Air National Guard Liaison to the Department of the Air Force's Senate Liaison Division from May 2023 to December 2024, Colonel Durand performed his duties with exceptional professionalism during the 118th Congress. Hailing from Plattsmouth, NE, he is a graduate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He represents a true Total Force officer, having served over 26 years on Active Duty, in the Air Force Reserve, and in the Air National Guard. Like his father, Col. Arthur Durand, U.S. Air Force retired, and his younger brother Lt. Col. Ryan Durand, U.S. Space Force retired, he has demonstrated exceptional and unrivaled officership throughout his career. He served in various personnel, command,

and special staff positions with experience at the squadron, group, wing, major command, and combatant command level and deployed in support of Operations Allied Force and Enduring Freedom.

Colonel Durand distinguished himself with professionalism and dedication as the sole Air National Guard Legislative Liaison in the Department of the Air Force's Senate Liaison office. In this role, he advised Department of the Air Force senior leaders and helped shape over 150 strategic engagements with Senators, Congressmen, and staffers to advance U.S. Air Force and Space Force priorities. He provided seamless collaboration with the Department of the Air Force in all 100 Senate offices. In 20 of those offices, one which was mine, he was the principal Air Force liaison to 20 Senators and their staffs. He also collaborated closely with the Senate Space Force Caucus to effectively educate Senate offices and defense committees on the Department of Defense's newest military branch and its alignment with the National Defense Strategy's focus on Reoptimization for Great Power Competition.

A driven leader skilled at building relationships, Colonel Durand spearheaded initiatives within Headquarters Air Force that bridged the information gap between Members of Congress and the Department of the Air Force. He fostered a shared understanding of congressional priorities and Departmental objectives, enabling the alignment of goals and a cohesive, multifunctional approach to achieving them. He directly supported the successful execution of nine Senate confirmation, posture, and subcommittee hearings, and he provided the Senate with critical information and language refinements necessary to complete the 2025 National Defense Authorization Act.

Colonel Durand's commitment to enhancing global partnerships was evident when he planned, executed and led 13 congressional and staff delegation trips. These trips within the United States and overseas, supported the Air Force Caucus, State delegations, key Senate committees, and our allies and partners. These interactions successfully strengthened international collaboration and cultivated relationships crucial for advancing shared defense priorities and select Department of the Air Force equities. His direct involvement and oversight helped Members of Congress make informed decisions to ensure the Department of the Air Force possessed the right authorities and resources necessary to equip our warfighters and fulfill its role.

One highlight is Colonel Durand co-leading the Senate delegation for the bicameral 2023 and 2024 Reagan National Defense Forums. His significant efforts resulted in more than 70 successful engagements between Senators, current and former administration officials, senior military leaders, industry executives, technology innovators, and leading-edge thought leaders. These

interactions helped my colleagues and our staffs advance conversations and collaborations critical to achieving our shared national security goal of peace through strength.

Colonel Durand became a fixture on Capitol Hill, before moving on to serve as the Air National Guard adviser to the director of the Air Force's legislative liaison in Washington. I know he is forever grateful to his wife Frances for her unwavering commitment and many sacrifices in supporting his calling in the defense of our Nation.

I am thankful for Col. Darin Durand's service and his work with my office and the Senate over the past 2 years on issues of vital importance to the defense of the United States. I salute this American patriot whose selfless service has kept our country safe and strong.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### RECOGNIZING ACORN BLUFF FARMS

• 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 Acorn Bluff Farms of Columbus Junction, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

In 2016, while actively serving in the U.S. Marine Corps, Seth Todd teamed up with his younger brother Kenan Todd to launch their own hog farm in southeast Iowa. Both Iowa State University graduates, the brothers researched the complex genetics and breed options for their heritage pork operation. After thoughtful consideration and several taste testings, the two settled on Mangalitsa pigs, a prized breed known for its rich fattiness and complex flavor profile, recognized as the Kobe of pork. The brothers secured a two-acre parcel of organic farmland from a 200-year-old homestead farm in Columbus Junction. Even after the start of their business, Seth continued to serve in the Marines as a heavy equipment mechanic while Kenan continued to practice as a physical therapist. The brothers began selling their products at the Columbus Junction Farmer's Market, where the Mangalitsa pork became an instant hit.

As the brand continued to grow, especially after the Associated Press published a report highlighting the young farm, Acorn Bluff Farms expanded their sales into the online marketplace. Seth and Kenan's brother Jared leads the digital operation and serves as a co-owner of the family business. Acorn Bluff Farms sells their specialty products direct-to-consumer. The farm boasts locally and nationally famous boar sausage, chorizo, bacon, and pork chops, in addition to variety boxes and sampler packs. The Todd brothers perfected a strict breeding standard and

slower life cycle for the animals, which ultimately leads to a higher quality and richer flavored product.

The Todd family remains deeply involved in their community. Seth serves as a volunteer firefighter and member of the Iowa Farm Bureau, advocating on behalf of farm families in Louisa County. Kenan is an active member of the Columbus Junction City Council, a practicing physical therapist, and co-owner—alongside his wife Allison—of a local coffee shop in Columbus Junction. In 2024, Acorn Bluff Farms received a \$15,000 Choose Iowa Value-Added Grant, which allowed them to add USDA-certified cold storage and the capacity to ship premium pork products nationwide.

I want to congratulate the Todd brothers for their entrepreneurial drive, commitment to sustainable agriculture, and passion for producing high-quality, heritage pork. Through Acorn Bluff Farms, the team has built a standout Iowa business that reflects the values of hard work, innovation, and integrity. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success.●

#### REMEMBERING DEACON MARTIN PROSPER

● Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of the late Deacon Martin Prosper. Deacon Prosper was a kind and active member of the Prince George's County and Greater Washington community. His life embodied faith, perseverance, and community service.

Deacon Prosper immigrated to the United States from Haiti in 1979 and settled in Capitol Heights, MD, where he quickly established a warm and inviting presence in the community. Affectionally known as "25," his deep connection to the Haitian and African-American communities allowed him to bridge the gap between generations and positively impact countless lives. Above all, Deacon Prosper's life was rooted in his faith and ministry. In his role as deacon at Holy Temple Church of Christ, he ministered with humility and love and regularly opened his home as a safe haven to family and friends.

Deacon Prosper's humility, professionalism, and compassion served him well in his hospitality career at the Holiday Inn Washington Capitol and Gaylord National Resort in National Harbor. He was also a proud member of UNITE HERE Local 25, where he championed worker dignity and solidarity. His exceptional hospitality earned him the Regional Apple of the Year Award in 1992.

I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our appreciation and gratitude to the late Deacon Martin Prosper and his family for his enduring contributions to the hospitality industry and organized labor and his unwavering faith-based service.●

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:17 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. 260. An act to require a strategy to oppose foreign assistance by foreign countries and nongovernmental organizations to the Taliban, and for other purposes.

H.R. 910. An act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to pursue more equitable treatment of Taiwan at the international financial institutions, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1082. An act to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct a national, evidence-based education campaign to increase public and health care provider awareness regarding the potential risks and benefits of human cell and tissue products transplants, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1190. An act to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to expand access to capital for rural-area small businesses, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1520. An act to prohibit discrimination on the basis of mental or physical disability in cases of organ transplants.

H.R. 1664. An act to direct the Secretary of Commerce to take actions necessary and appropriate to promote the competitiveness of the United States related to the deployment, use, application, and competitiveness of blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1679. An act to direct the Secretary of Commerce, in coordination with the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, to conduct an interagency review of and report to Congress on ways to increase the global competitiveness of the United States in attracting foreign direct investment.

H.R. 1713. An act to amend the Defense Production Act of 1950 to include the Secretary of Agriculture as a member of the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1737. An act to direct the Secretary of Commerce to submit to Congress a report containing an assessment of the value, cost, and feasibility of a transAtlantic submarine fiber optic cable connecting the contiguous United States, the United States Virgin Islands, Ghana, and Nigeria.

H.R. 1767. An act to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to promulgate a mandatory consumer product safety standard with respect to retractable awnings.

H.R. 1998. An act to require the imposition of sanctions with respect to foreign persons engaged in piracy, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2225. An act to permit a registered investment company to omit certain fees from the calculation of Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2269. An act to require certain products to be labeled with "Do Not Flush" labeling, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2481. An act to require online dating service providers to provide fraud ban notifications to online dating service members, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2808. An act to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to prevent consumer reporting agencies from furnishing consumer reports under certain circumstances, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3301. An act to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to specify certain registration statement contents for emerging growth companies, to permit issuers to file draft registration statements with the Securities and Exchange Commission for confidential review, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3352. An act to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to revise rules relating to general solicitation or general advertising to allow for presentations or other communication made by or on behalf of an

issuer at certain events, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3381. An act to amend the Securities Act of 1933 to expand the ability to use testing the waters and confidential draft registration submissions, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3394. An act to amend the Securities Act of 1933 to codify certain qualifications of individuals as accredited investors for purposes of the securities laws

H.R. 3422. An act to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to require the Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation to provide educational resources and host events to promote capital raising options for traditionally underrepresented small businesses, 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. 260. An act to require a strategy to oppose foreign assistance by foreign countries and nongovernmental organizations to the Taliban, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 1082. An act to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct a national, evidence-based education campaign to increase public and health care provider awareness regarding the potential risks and benefits of human cell and tissue products transplants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 1190. An act to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to expand access to capital for rural-area small businesses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 1520. An act to prohibit discrimination on the basis of mental or physical disability in cases of organ transplants; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 1679. An act to direct the Secretary of Commerce, in coordination with the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, to conduct an interagency review of and report to Congress on ways to increase the global competitiveness of the United States in attracting foreign direct investment; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 1713. An act to amend the Defense Production Act of 1950 to include the Secretary of Agriculture as a member of the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 1737. An act to direct the Secretary of Commerce to submit to Congress a report containing an assessment of the value, cost, and feasibility of a trans-Atlantic submarine fiber optic cable connecting the contiguous United States, the United States Virgin Islands, Ghana, and Nigeria; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 1767. An act to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to promulgate a mandatory consumer product safety standard with respect to retractable awnings; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 1998. An act to require the imposition of sanctions with respect to foreign persons engaged in piracy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 2225. An act to permit a registered investment company to omit certain fees from the calculation of Acquired Fund Fees and