

career as a principal engineer specializing in TPG IE Modeling.

As the company and Troy progressed, he worked under five Micon chief executive officers, starting with Joe Parkinson and ending with Sanjay Mehrotra. Interestingly, Troy went skydiving with Steve Appleton twice when Steve was developing an interest in flying and skydiving. Troy's career spanned the downturns as well as the years of company growth where economic forecasts exceeded expectations. He has been a member of the workforce that has seen the company grow from a computer memory and data storage producer to rise as a leader for producing the enhanced memory solutions for AI-driven technologies changing our world, homes, and lives today.

Throughout his career, Troy has handled important technical tasks, bettered himself through his continuing education, and directly contributed that added knowledge to his field. He also personally contributes to Idaho's leadership in innovation and our State's consistently high ranking in patents held per capita. Troy has a remarkable five U.S. patents related to photolithographic metrology method; unique photolithographic processing technique; immersion photolithographic defect reduction and novel process techniques.

I thank Troy for his enormous contributions of his time and ideas to discovery and development for Idaho and our country. I should also mention that Troy's wife Margaret Ballard is a longtime and greatly valued member of my staff. Realizing that staff service to our constituencies often carries over to family time over the years, I know Margaret joins me in thanking Troy for his steady support. Congratulations, Troy, on an outstanding career of contributions to an essential field of innovation. I wish Troy the best as he embarks on his retirement.●

RECOGNIZING GROOM CURRICULUM

● 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 Groom Curriculum of Emmetsburg, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

In 2022, Sierra Elbert founded Groom Curriculum with the vision of teaching others the intricacies of pet grooming. From a young age, Sierra assisted her mother with dog grooming, naturally growing her skills and expertise and now serves as the president and founder of Groom Curriculum. As the first nationally collegiate approved dog grooming curriculum provider, the small business offers a 10-week continuing education workforce program specializing in dog grooming, where students earn a professional grooming

credential upon completion. Groom Curriculum currently works with 21 community college programs, workforce training organizations, and registered apprenticeship programs across the country.

Groom Curriculum ensures student success from all walks of life by removing barriers and guiding students from education to employment. With Groom Curriculum, students learn the skills needed to start a job or run their own dog grooming business. To ensure the curriculum prepares students for excellence and proficiency, the program upholds the educational standards established by the American Kennel Club.

Within 3 years, Sierra Elbert and her team, including Patricia Pierce, Shelby Mitchel, and Rachel Colant, have led the way for Groom Curriculum to be recognized and commended nationwide. Elbert was recently named the 2025 Deb Dalziel Woman Entrepreneur of the Year by the Iowa Small Business Development Center. Groom Curriculum currently holds a national accreditation from the National Council for Continuing Education and Training and is supported nationally by the World Pet Association.

Groom Curriculum further serves as a community provider by regularly hosting free webinars for dog groomers across the country to support continuing education and promote safe, professional grooming practices. Furthermore, the business has participated in high school career day events to introduce grooming as a skilled trade and has provided free tuition vouchers to select students to reduce financial barriers to training. The team at Groom Curriculum also donates their time to groom dogs in need of homes, further amplifying Groom Curriculum's positive impact within the community.

I want to congratulate Sierra and the entire Groom Curriculum team for their hard work and dedication to providing an exceptional service to families and businesses across Iowa. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success.●

REMEMBERING DR. JAIME REGALADO

● Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate the life of Dr. Jaime Regalado—a beloved father, grandfather, U.S. Navy veteran, and former executive director of the Pat Brown Institute for Public Affairs at California State University, Los Angeles—Cal State LA.

Dr. James "Jaime" A. Regalado was born on April 2, 1945, in the Boyle Heights neighborhood of Los Angeles. The son of an educator who served in World War II, Jaime went on to follow in his father's footsteps, first serving in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam war and later returning home to become an educator, himself.

He earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees from Cal State LA

and his Ph.D. in political science from the University of California, Riverside.

As a professor, his career took him from his undergraduate alma mater to Cal Poly Pomona to Occidental College. In 1991, he began his tenure as executive director for the Edmund G. "Pat" Brown Institute of Public Affairs—PBI—a position he would hold for the next 20 years. Over the course of his time at PBI, Jaime became a trusted researcher, a vocal leader advocating for civic engagement, an expert analyst of Los Angeles and California politics, and a founding editor of California Politics & Policy as well as California Policy Issues Annual. It is in no small part because of Jaime's work that PBI became the powerhouse for political research and civic engagement it remains today.

Through friends, family, and loved ones, we will remember Jaime for his incredible intellect, his mentorship, his leadership, and of course, his sense of humor. And generations of leaders past and present will continue to celebrate him each year through PBI's newly created Dr. Jaime Regalado Public Service Award.

Angela and I send our love to Jaime's wife of 26 years, Rocio; his three sons James Jr., Jay, and Camilo; his eight grandchildren; and his siblings Ray and Olivia.●

TRIBUTE TO ARTURO VARGAS

● Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Arturo Vargas on a remarkable career spent in service to others as he steps down after more than 30 years as CEO of the National Association of Latino Elected Officials—NALEO—and the NALEO Educational Fund. As a CEO, a demographics expert, a mentor, and a friend to so many, Arturo has dedicated his career to growing civic participation and representation for Latinos in California and across our country.

Arturo Vargas was born on July 13, 1962, in El Paso, TX, to Jose Vargas Castillo and Antonieta Valverde Vargas. After meeting in Ciudad Chihuahua, Mexico, his parents moved to New Mexico and Texas before eventually settling down in Los Angeles in 1964, where Arturo and his siblings were raised. Arturo earned a bachelor's degree in history and Spanish and later a master's degree in education from Stanford University.

After graduation, Arturo set out on a career that took him from the National Council of La Raza to the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund—MALDEF—to chairing the 2030 Census Advisory Committee. During his time at MALDEF, Arturo contributed to a historic increase in Latino representation in California, working both for accurate enumeration of Latinos in the census and to grow the number of Latino elected officials.

In his three decades as CEO of NALEO, Arturo dedicated himself to the challenging work of building power

and representation for Latinos in America. During his tenure, he took what was already an important and impactful organization and turned it into a highly respected national platform not only for Latino elected officials, but for any political, corporate, or philanthropic leader wanting to speak to the political leadership of the Latino community.

Thanks to his work, Latinos across the country now see ourselves represented at nearly every level of government—from State and local government to the U.S. House of Representatives, U.S. Senate, and the Supreme Court. Our community and our country are more inclusive and better off because of the work of Arturo Vargas.

On a personal note, as a former president of NALEO myself, I have had the privilege of seeing Arturo's dedication up close. Whether it was calling on him for his unparalleled expertise—or even just to talk Dodgers baseball—I consider myself fortunate to call Arturo an ally and a friend.

As we look ahead to the 50th anniversary of NALEO and all the fights that lie ahead, I take comfort knowing that future generations of Latino leaders will have a roadmap for representation, leadership, and advocacy that Arturo carved out to follow.

I thank Arturo's husband, the Honorable Michael Fitzgerald; his siblings Jose, Jorge, Maria Antonieta, and Rogelio; and his entire family for sharing him with us for all these years.●

TRIBUTE TO EVAN FIRMAN

● Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, today I recognize Evan Firman, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all the hard work he has done on behalf of my office and the State of South Dakota. Mr. Firman is from Flandreau, SD. He is currently attending the University of South Dakota, where he studies economics and political science. Mr. Firman is a dedicated and diligent individual who has been devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience. He has been a true asset to my office. I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Mr. Firman for all of the work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH GEBEL

● Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, today I recognize Joseph Gebel, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all the hard work he has done on behalf of my office and the State of South Dakota. Mr. Gebel is a graduate of Mitchell High School in Mitchell, SD. He is currently attending Augustana University, where he studies government studies, religion, and philosophy. Mr. Gebel is a dedicated and diligent individual who has been devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience. He has been a true asset to my office. I extend my sincere thanks and

appreciation to Mr. Gebel for all of the work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO CLAIRE KOENECKE

● Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, today I recognize Claire Koenecke, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all the hard work she has done on behalf of my office and the State of South Dakota. Ms. Koenecke is a graduate of T.F. Riggs High School in Pierre, SD. She is currently attending South Dakota State University, where she studies English and political science. Ms. Koenecke is a dedicated and diligent individual who has been devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience. She has been a true asset to my office. I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Ms. Koenecke for all of the work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO BELLA MAXWELL

● Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, today I recognize Bella Maxwell, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all the hard work she has done on behalf of my office and the State of South Dakota. Ms. Maxwell is a graduate of Madison High School in Madison, SD. She is currently attending Dakota State University, where she studies cyber operations. Ms. Maxwell is a dedicated and diligent individual who has been devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience. She has been a true asset to my office. I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Ms. Maxwell for all of the work she has done and wish her continued success in the years 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

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and withdrawals which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 4:21 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, without amendment:

S. 1582. An act to provide for the regulation of payment stablecoins, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 5:58 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by

Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 1582. An act to provide for the regulation of payment stablecoins, and for other purposes.

S. 1596. An act to rename the Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge located in the State of Texas as the "Jocelyn Nungaray National Wildlife Refuge".

H.R. 1815. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to take certain actions in the case of a default on a home loan guaranteed by the Secretary, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. LANKFORD).

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following joint resolution was discharged from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, and referred as indicated:

S. 350. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to select and implement landscape-scale forest restoration projects, to assist communities in increasing their resilience to wildfire, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

PRIVILEGED NOMINATION REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

On request by Senator PATTY MURRAY, under the authority of S. Res. 116, 112th Congress, the following nomination was referred to the committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Mary Riley, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary for Legislation and Congressional Affairs, Department of Education.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. BOOZMAN, from the Committee on Appropriations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

H.R. 3944. An act making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 119-43).

By Mr. MORAN, from the Committee on Appropriations, without amendment:

S. 2354. An original bill making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 119-44).

By Mr. COTTON, from the Select Committee on Intelligence, without amendment:

S. 2342. An original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Intelligence Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted: