

world's experts in disaster response, global health, and humanitarian assistance. Dr. Burkle further offered his expertise in disaster and emergency medicine by serving as the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Global Health at the U.S. Agency for International Development, where he was notably tasked to organize preparations for postconflict humanitarian assistance following the U.S. invasion of Iraq. His work has spanned continents and crises, earning him well-deserved recognition.

Dr. Burkle's life is a testament to the values we hold dear: service above self, healing in the face of destruction, and unwavering dedication to the betterment of humankind. I commend Dr. Burkle for his service to this country; we are a nation forever in gratitude for his accomplishments. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Fredrick "Skip" Burkle for his military service, his humanitarian legacy, and his enduring impact on global health and diplomacy.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING SPONHEIM SALES AND SERVICES

• 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 Sponheim Sales and Services of Nora Springs, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Founded in 2015 by Dean Sponheim, a fourth-generation Mitchell County farmer, Sponheim Sales and Services is the culmination of decades of agricultural innovation and a deep commitment to soil health and sustainability. Dean, along with his son Josh and longtime colleague Rachel Amundson, launched the acclaimed one-stop shop to provide cover crop seed, aerial application, custom seeding services, and more. What began as an effort to improve farming practices beyond conservation evolved into a full-service operation supporting farmers across Iowa.

Dean's journey began in the late 1990s, when he started strip-tilling and providing custom strip-till services. By 2012, Dean was aerially applying cover crops. With the official establishment of Sponheim Sales and Services a few years later, the team expanded to offer cover crop seed sales, custom seed cleaning, drilling, interseeding, and contracting with local oat and rye growers. Recently, they have partnered with Continuum Ag to help farmers participate in sustainability-driven markets while reducing their environmental footprint.

Today, Sponheim Sales and Services continues to operate out of Nora Springs, IA, serving farmers across the

region, while carrying forward the family's Century Farm legacy. The business remains highly involved within the community, actively participating with organizations such as the Iowa Soybean Association, Iowa Corn Growers Association, and Iowa Farm Bureau Federation. Dean also serves on the Rock Creek Watershed Advisory Board and contributes to national conservation efforts through the National Strip-Till Conference. In 2014, Dean was recognized with the Iowa Farm Environmental Leader Award, a testament to his commitment and ongoing pursuit of sustainable farming. In addition to these leadership roles, Sponheim Sales and Services is dedicated to supporting its local community, sponsoring many schools and county fairs. The team is a trusted resource for farmers seeking professional guidance, offering skills and knowledge drawn from years of firsthand experience and continuous learning.

Last year, I witnessed the entrepreneurial spirit and dedication to land stewardship demonstrated by Sponheim Sales and Services firsthand. As a trusted partner to local farmers and a leader in conservation agriculture, this family-owned business continues to make a positive impact across our State and region. I want to congratulate Dean, Josh, Rachel, and the entire Sponheim Sales and Services team for their outstanding work, and I look forward to their continued success supporting Iowa's agricultural future.●

RECOGNIZING PRESTON, IDAHO

• Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, today, I rise with my colleagues Senator MIKE CRAPO and Congressman MIKE SIMPSON to celebrate the 125th birthday of Preston, ID. From the famous Preston Night Rodeo to the historic brick-and-mortar businesses along State Street, Preston has both a deep history and bright future to be celebrated.

The first settlers arrived in the Preston area in 1888, establishing a small agricultural town in the fertile Cache Valley of southeastern Idaho, which they called "Worm Creek." The community, shaped by faith, family, hard work, and resilience, was officially incorporated on July 25, 1900. The newly formed city was named Preston in honor of William B. Preston, the fourth Presiding Bishop of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Preston quickly became known for its strong agricultural foundation, primarily in dairy, sugar beet, and grain farming, which still influence the economy today. In 1904, the Oregon Short Line Railroad connected Preston to larger nearby markets, spurring growth in commerce, education, and the community in Franklin County. Preston High School was built shortly thereafter, in 1908. In the more than 100 years since, the school has gained recognition not only for its academic achievements but also for the 2004 pop culture sensation "Napoleon Dyna-

mite." This iconic film captured the sincerity and quiet charm that Preston has displayed since its founding.

The city of Preston is a true testament to Western American heritage. These values are evident in the kindness of the community, rich agricultural roots, and the Famous Preston Night Rodeo. Since 1934, the award-winning Preston Rodeo has attracted world-champion cowboys and cowgirls, stimulated economic development, and inspired generations of family fun.

For 125 years, Preston has demonstrated that hard work, responsible stewardship of the land, and commitment to community create a lasting impact. Today, we proudly recognize more than a century of this small town's strong families, agricultural innovations, and notable small businesses that will continue to shape its future.●

RECOGNIZING THOMAS MERCANTILE

• Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, as a member and former chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each month I recognize and celebrate the American entrepreneurial spirit by highlighting the success of a small business in my home State of Idaho. Today, I am pleased to honor Thomas Mercantile as the Idaho Small Business of the Month for July 2025.

Thomas Mercantile opened in Swan Lake in 1909 when Samuel Thomas bought the store. Alongside his brothers Chauncey and Moroni, the family operated the local post office, grocery store, and a harness and saddle business.

During its 108 years of operation, the Thomas Mercantile was known as the "hub" of the Swan Lake community. From its early days as a dancehall and barbershop to becoming home to the first television in east Idaho, the shop was a favorite spot for town meetings and camaraderie. Three generations of Thomases ran the business, overcoming the Great Depression, World War II, tragedy, and triumph, before closing the mercantile in 2017.

In the spring of 2021, Idaho native Kaarin Engelmann took on the challenge of reopening the store. After a lengthy restoration process, during which Kaarin worked extensively to preserve the business's history, charm, and beloved radiators, the Thomas Mercantile reopened its doors in May of 2023.

Today, Kaarin continues the legacy of the Thomas Mercantile by hosting community events, such as board gaming afternoons, Music at the Merc, and Swan Lake Market Day. The shop also supports local producers, sourcing its baked goods, eggs, pork, and beef from vendors in the Swan Lake region.

Congratulations to Kaarin, the Thomas family, and all the employees at Thomas Mercantile on being selected as the Idaho Small Business of

the Month for July 2025. Thank you for serving Idaho as small business owners and entrepreneurs. You make our great State proud, and I look forward to your continued growth and success.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:09 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, 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. 131. An act to make certain modifications to the repayment for the Arkansas Valley Conduit in the State of Colorado.

H.R. 183. An act to amend the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act to provide for a free annual National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass for law enforcement officers and firefighters.

H.R. 672. An act to establish new ZIP Codes for certain communities, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1043. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain Federal land in Arizona to La Paz County, Arizona, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1450. An act to require the Office of Foreign Assets Control to develop a program under which private sector firms may receive a license to conduct nominal financial transactions in furtherance of the firms' investigations, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1469. An act to create an interdivisional taskforce at the Securities and Exchange Commission for senior investors.

H.R. 1716. An act to deter Chinese aggression towards Taiwan by requiring the Secretary of the Treasury to publish a report on financial institutions and accounts connected to senior officials of the People's Republic of China, to restrict financial services for certain immediate family of such officials, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1764. An act to accord securities issued by the International Development Association the same exemption from the securities laws that applies to the securities of other multilateral development banks in which the United States is a member.

H.R. 2170. An act to name the Department of Veterans Affairs community based outpatient clinic in Toms River, New Jersey, the Leonard G. 'Bud' Lomell, VA Clinic, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2384. An act to establish an Independent Financial Technology Working Group to Combat Terrorism and Illicit Financing, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2625. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to update certain terminology regarding veteran employment.

H.R. 3095. An act to direct the United States Postal Services to designate single, unique ZIP Codes for certain communities, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3339. An act to require certification examinations for accredited investors, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3343. An act to amend the Federal securities laws to specify the periods for which financial statements are required to be provided by an emerging growth company, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3351. An act to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to specify that actions of the Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation are not a collection of information under the Paperwork Reduction Act.

H.R. 3382. An act to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to carry out a study and rulemaking on the definition of the term "small entity" under the securities

laws for purposes of chapter 6 of title 5, United States Code, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3395. An act to require the Comptroller General of the United States to carry out a study of the costs associated with small- and medium-sized companies to undertake initial public offerings.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 131. An act to make certain modifications to the repayment for the Arkansas Valley Conduit in the State of Colorado; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 183. An act to amend the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act to provide for a free annual National Parks and Federal Recreational lands Pass for law enforcement officers and firefighters; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 672. An act to establish new ZIP Codes for certain communities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 1043. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain Federal land in Arizona to La Paz County, Arizona, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 1450. An act to require the Office of Foreign Assets Control to develop a program under which private sector firms may receive a license to conduct nominal financial transactions in furtherance of the firms' investigations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 1469. An act to create an interdivisional taskforce at the Securities and Exchange Commission for senior investors; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 1716. An act to deter Chinese aggression towards Taiwan by requiring the Secretary of the Treasury to publish a report on financial institutions and accounts connected to senior officials of the People's Republic of China, to restrict financial services for certain immediate family of such officials, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 1764. An act to accord securities issued by the International Development Association the same exemption from the securities laws that applies to the securities of other multilateral development banks in which the United States is a member; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 2170. An act to name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Toms River, New Jersey, the Leonard G. 'Bud' Lomell, VA Clinic, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 2384. An act to establish an Independent Financial Technology Working Group to Combat Terrorism and Illicit Financing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 2625. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to update certain terminology regarding veteran employment; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 3095. An act to direct the United States Postal Service to designate single, unique ZIP Codes for certain communities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 3339. An act to require certification examinations for accredited investors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 3343. An act to amend the Federal securities laws to specify the periods for which financial statements are required to be provided by an emerging growth company, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 3351. An act to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to specify that actions of the Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation are not a collection of information under the Paperwork Reduction Act; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 3382. An act to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to carry out a study and rulemaking on the definition of the term "small entity" under the securities laws for purposes of chapter 6 of title 5, United States Code, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 3395. An act to require the Comptroller General of the United States to carry out a study of the costs associated with small- and medium-sized companies to undertake initial public offerings; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communication was laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and was referred as indicated:

EC-1336. A communication from the Chief Executive Officer of the Peace Corps, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of Inspector General's Semiannual Report for the period of October 1, 2024 through March 31, 2025; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. CRUZ, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, without amendment:

S. 769. A bill to amend the Research and Development, Competition, and Innovation Act to clarify the definition of foreign country for purposes of malign foreign talent recruitment restriction, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 119-45).

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. CRAPO for the Committee on Finance.

*Joseph Barloon, of Maryland, to be a Deputy United States Trade Representative (Geneva Office), with the rank of Ambassador.

*Brian Morrissey, Jr., of Virginia, to be General Counsel for the Department of the Treasury.

*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.