

Emergency Medical Services Conference.

TRIBUTE TO CANDANCE CASTLEN BRAKE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, today I would like to pay tribute to my friend Candance Castlen Brake, president and CEO of the Greater Owensboro Chamber of Commerce. Candance is retiring this year after a decade leading the chamber, and I ask my colleagues to please join me in recognizing Candance for her devotion to serving the public and making her community a better place.

Candance graduated from Brescia College in Owensboro in 1993 with a bachelors in history and went to work in her first job for the Greater Owensboro Chamber of Commerce as community program manager. The experience she gained in this role ignited her love for the chamber's work and continues to drive her to this day.

While completing her master's in public administration from Western Kentucky University, Candance began her next career step that involved a 5-and-a-half-year period helping run the Daviess County Fiscal Court as chief of staff to county judge executive W.M. "Buzz" Norris. There, she assisted in the management of a \$35 million budget and 200 full-time employees. This was only the beginning of her robust service in local and county government that built a foundation for her tremendous success as a leader.

Candance's affinity for the chamber brought her back in 2000 as vice president of workforce development and education. She worked with local businesses addressing workforce issues and helping workers transition into new jobs. Candance quickly rose to the rank of executive vice president overseeing a broad swath of operations which focused on economic development in Owensboro.

In November of 2004, Candance was elected city commissioner, where she began the first of three consecutive terms advocating on behalf of Owensboro and facilitating one of the most important developments in city history in the riverfront revitalization project. I was proud to help secure \$50 million in Federal funds to renovate Owensboro's riverfront, turning this space into a magnet for economic development. Candance played an integral role in this project, encouraging community and business leaders to think big. What started as just an idea was made into reality through the persistence and tenacity of public servants like Candance.

In 2015, she returned to the Owensboro Chamber as president and led the organization through some of its most pivotal moments with a laser focus on bettering the lives of small business owners. Advocacy efforts under Candance led to the widening of highway 54, lighting of the William H. Natcher Bridge, and countywide

broadband. In addition to these infrastructure accomplishments, Candance has worked tirelessly on talent building and retention through the chamber's young professionals group and by founding the Greater Owensboro Leadership Institute. She believes in young talent and has seen firsthand how valuable it can be to a city.

In addition to her career accomplishments, Candance has served on numerous boards such as Kentuckians for Better Transportation, the American Chamber of Commerce Executives Board, and the Brescia University Board of Trustees. She has also received status as a distinguished alumnus from her alma mater for making a difference.

While Candance's career accomplishments are beyond impressive, there is much more to her life. Inspired by her grandfather and motivated by current and past local entrepreneurs, Candance leads with selflessness, always striving to give back. She frequently attributes her successes to the team and ensures those around her feel valued for their work. Candance gives it her all and inspires others to get involved too. I know that she will succeed in the next chapter of her life and is looking forward to spending more time with her husband Nick and adult children Nicholas and Caroline. Once again, I ask my colleagues to please join me in applauding Candance's career of service to the public and to the business community in Owensboro.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO JANET MURGUÍA

• Mr. KELLY. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize a visionary leader and a lifelong advocate for the Latino community Janet Murguía on the occasion of her 20th anniversary as president and CEO of the Nation's largest Latino civil rights and advocacy organization, UnidosUS.

Janet's leadership has transformed UnidosUS into a cornerstone of opportunity and fairness to help millions of Latino families across the country to get ahead. For two decades, she has championed education, healthcare, housing, immigration reform, and economic empowerment. Janet leads with a deep understanding that when Latino communities thrive, our entire Nation grows stronger.

Janet brings passion, purpose, and personal dedication to everything she does. Janet's career is a testament to her commitment to public service and her belief in the American promise. In August, her leadership is being celebrated as UnidosUS gathers in Kansas City for their 2025 national conference.

Her impact has been deeply felt in Arizona. The partnerships that UnidosUS has built with local community organizations have helped expand access to health services, workforce development, affordable housing, and

educational opportunity for thousands of Latino families across the State. It is through this work that Janet is helping our communities address urgent needs and lift up voices that too often go unheard. Arizona is stronger because of that work, and because of Janet's leadership.

Under Janet's stewardship, UnidosUS has not only grown in scale and impact but has also become a trusted voice in national policymaking. Whether testifying before Congress or mobilizing civic engagement in every corner of the country, Janet has consistently reminded us that representation, inclusion, and equity are not just ideals; they are essential to how we lead, serve, and grow.

I have had the privilege of working alongside Janet and UnidosUS and witnessing firsthand the meaningful, measurable difference her leadership makes in Arizona and beyond. From supporting Latino-owned small businesses to expanding access to healthcare and education, her work touches lives every day.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Janet Murguía for 20 years of service and leadership. Her unwavering commitment to advocacy and to building a more inclusive and fair America takes persistence, integrity, and the kind of grit that makes America better. Folks like Janet don't just talk about change; they put in the work to make it real.●

RECOGNIZING JAIALDI

• Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Idaho's Basque community and the return of Jaialdi, a renowned celebration of Basque heritage, impact, and traditions in the heart of Boise.

Idaho has a long and proud history of Basque culture. Today, the Gem State, specifically the Treasure Valley, is home to the largest Basque population per capita outside of the Basque Country. The Basque people first arrived in southern Idaho in the 1890s, settling in Boise, Fruitland, and surrounding agricultural towns. Their unique sheep herding techniques cemented the Basques in Idaho's economic landscape, bringing with them rich traditions and ranching methods that shaped the region. Today, that culture is alive and well in Boise, where an entire downtown block is dedicated to Basque heritage, including the Cyrus Jacobs-Uberuaga House, a museum and cultural center, and restaurants. There, Idahoans and Basques from around the world gather to recognize Jaialdi.

In 1987, Boise hosted the first-ever Jaialdi to educate the public about Basque culture and celebrate the patron saint, Saint Ignatius of Loyola. The multiday festival is held every 5 years and draws more than 40,000 attendees from around the world. After having to cancel the festival in 2020, Jaialdi is back this July for the first time in 10 years. The event features

mass, traditional Basque sports, local and international dance groups including the Oinkari Basque dancers from Boise, strength competitions, concerts, and food.

For over a century, the Basque people have had a profound influence on Idaho's history, culture, and economy. As we gather to celebrate Jaialdi, I encourage all Idahoans to reflect on the Basque community's legacy and its enduring role in the Gem State's success.●

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.)

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following bill was discharged from the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, and referred as indicated:

S. 901. A bill to amend the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to increase the maximum loan amount for certain loans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 4016. An act making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes.

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-1420. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Determination under section 7034(k)(5) of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2024 (Div. A, P.L. 118-83)"; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1421. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "International Traffic in Arms Regulations: Updates to Certain Proscribed Countries and Other Changes" (RIN1400-AF83) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 28, 2025; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1422. A communication from the General Counsel, Office of Congressional Workplace Rights, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office's Biennial Report on the Occupational Safety and Health Inspections conducted during the 117th Congress received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1423. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's fiscal year 2024 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1424. A communication from the Executive Director, Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Eighty-Fourth Financial Statements for the period of October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1425. 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.

EC-1426. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26-105, "Consumer Protection Clarification Amendment Act of 2025"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1427. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26-95, "Farmers Market Support Amendment Act of 2025"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1428. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26-96, "Rev. A. Knighton Stanley Way Designation Act of 2025"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1429. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26-97, "John R. Thompson Jr. High School Designation Act of 2025"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1430. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26-98, "Health Occupations Revision Exemption Temporary Amendment Act of 2025"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1431. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26-99, "Subcontracting Requirements Exemption for Contracts for Health Benefits to District Employees Temporary Amendment Act of 2025"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1432. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26-100, "District of Columbia Housing Authority Stabilization and Reform Temporary Amendment Act of 2025"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1433. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26-101, "Rental Housing Reg-

istration Extension Temporary Amendment Act of 2025"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1434. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26-102, "Pilot Truancy Reduction Temporary Amendment Act of 2025"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1435. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to nominations, vacancies, designation of service in acting roles, discontinuation of service in an acting role and an action on nomination for positions covered by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 28, 2025; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1436. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Federal Student Loan Repayment Program Calendar Year 2024"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1437. A communication from the Research Director of the Administrative Conference of the United States, transmitting, a report of the recommendations adopted by the Administrative Conference of the United States at its 83rd Plenary Session; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1438. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to designation of service in an acting role for a position covered by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 28, 2025; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1439. A communication from the Board Members of the Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's Congressional Justification of Budget Estimates Report for fiscal year 2026; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-9. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana urging the United States Congress to modify the H-2A nonimmigrant visa program to address the untenable increases in wage rates resulting from the United States Department of Labor's policies that create an undue and unsustainable financial burden on Louisiana farmers, who rely on an affordable, readily available H-2A workforce; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 14

Whereas, Section 218 of the Immigration and Nationality Act authorizes the lawful admission into the United States of temporary, nonimmigrant workers to perform agricultural labor or services of a temporary or seasonal nature; and

Whereas, according to the United States Department of Labor (DOL), under the H-2A program, employment is subject to robust immigration and occupational health and safety oversight; and

Whereas, in order to qualify for H-2A visa classification, employers must show that there are not enough United States workers