

under APA and no CRA exception applies. Therefore, the 2024 ROD is subject to CRA's requirement that it be submitted to Congress and the Comptroller General before it can take effect.

EDDA EMMANUELLI PEREZ,
General Counsel.

RECOGNIZING GREATEST GENERATION WEEK AND 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF WWII

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Greatest Generation Week and the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II. I am honored to have the opportunity to speak about this truly significant milestone marking the end to one of the most tumultuous and tragic global events in history. It was the resilience and patriotism of millions of Americans, both soldier and citizen, that shaped a generation and the future of this Nation. On the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II, we pay tribute to our fellow Americans, and the "greatest generation," that united under the banner of our flag to fight tyranny and injustice.

On September 2, 1945, U.S. Army General Douglas MacArthur accepted the formal surrender of Japan aboard the USS *Missouri*. For those of the "greatest generation," this date represents the culmination of 1,226 days of arduous and demanding sacrifice. During World War II, over 16 million Americans served in uniform. In fields and factories, American workers produced the materials for victory in quantities previously unimagined. Michigan became an arsenal for democracy as our assembly lines became the frontlines of an unprecedented war effort. Untold others sacrificed at home by rationing, purchasing war bonds, or contributing to the war effort in countless small ways.

As we commemorate the 80th anniversary of the end of that costly war, we wish to express our deep gratitude to those remaining members of the "greatest generation" who willingly bore such burdens for our freedom. As we honor the living among us, we must also remember the dead. Over 400,000 Americans made the ultimate sacrifice during World War II, and of these, the remains of over 70,000 have never been located. To this day, the bodies of over 2,400 Michiganders remain unrecovered in distant battlegrounds and beneath the waves.

It is my great honor to extend my gratitude to the servicemembers and civilians that have sacrificed for our country. I ask all my colleagues to join me in recognition of Greatest Generation Week and commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II.

RECOGNIZING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF HUDSON, MAINE

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today to wish the town of Hudson, ME,

a very happy 200th birthday. The people of Hudson are proud of their hometown and the generations of hard-working and caring people who have made it such a wonderful place to live, work, and raise families.

Hudson's incorporation in 1825 was but one milestone on a long journey of progress. For thousands of years, the region, with its pristine waters and vast forests, was the hunting grounds of the Penobscot Tribe. Early settlers began arriving around 1800 and turned those resources into busy lumber mills, followed by a furniture factory and cooper shops.

The wealth produced by the land, and by hard work and determination, was invested in a church and several schools to create a true community. In 1824, the settlement became a plantation—a pre-incorporation designation unique to Maine—called Jackson, in honor of the hero of the War of 1812 who would later become our Nation's seventh President. In 1825, the plantation was fully incorporated as Kirkland, after an early settler. Finally, in 1855, the name was changed to Hudson, recognizing the Massachusetts hometown of many residents.

During the Civil War, Maine contributed a higher percentage of its population to abolishing slavery and preserving our Union than any other State, and Hudson played a significant role in contributing soldiers and supporting the war effort. Today, the Veterans Memorial Park stands as an inspiring tribute to all the men and women of Hudson who have defended our freedom throughout history.

Little Pushaw Pond, Pushaw Lake, and the lovely connecting stream running through fields and forest give Hudson a refreshing rural feel. At the same time, the nearby city of Bangor and the flagship University of Maine campus at Orono offer the arts and entertainment activities that make life in Hudson truly the best of both worlds.

The energy that so many have devoted to this year's exciting bicentennial celebration is but one example of the spirit that has guided Hudson from its founding to today. Thanks to those who came before, Hudson, ME, has a wonderful past. Thanks to those who are there today, it has a bright future.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNUAL BETHLEHEM FAIR

• Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate the 100th annual Bethlehem Fair and recognize the steadfast stewardship of the Bethlehem Fair Society.

Connecticut is known for its many fall fairs, a symbol of the State's strong agrarian roots. While recognized today for our exemplary manufacturing industry, agriculture remains an important, vital part of our econ-

omy. Every year, I attend many of these fairs—including the Bethlehem Fair—to meet with the people of Connecticut and demonstrate my deep appreciation for our farmers and crafters.

The Bethlehem Fair was founded in 1924 by Paul L. Johnson and has grown to be a truly remarkable institution in the local community and indeed all of Connecticut. Located at the historic Bethlehem Fair Grounds, the fair has anything and everything a fairgoer could want.

The fair has all the offerings of a classic farmer's market, from stands of local fruits, vegetables, and other agricultural products to exhibits of livestock that include beef and dairy cattle, poultry, goats and sheep, and even rabbits and cavies. The fair also has a packed schedule of events and competitions, including amusement rides, an antique tractor pull, competitions such as the Lumberjack Contest and the "Ag-Olympics," and other entertainment such as art and photography shows, live music, and a vintage museum.

Notably, the fair places a great importance on providing an educational experience. Youth from across the area flock to the fair to learn about farming and agriculture as both an occupation and a tradition and consider the future of farming. Building on this, the fair sponsors the Bethlehem Fair Scholarship Foundation, which each year awards over \$20,000 in scholarships to graduates who plan to major in agribusiness or home economics. Scholarships are awarded to students who have made outstanding contributions to their community, including through academic achievement, participation in school and community activities, and volunteering at the Bethlehem Fair.

The Bethlehem Fair is an exceptional community-building event. It gives local businesses the opportunity for sponsorship and to market their products. It connects the people of Connecticut and gives them a place to share experiences and learn from each other. And it uniquely promotes a spirit of altruism and giving back.

The Bethlehem Fair continues to be a landmark event in Connecticut, and I have no doubt that it will remain that way for many years to come. I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring the 100th annual Bethlehem Fair and the hard work for the Bethlehem Fair Society. •

TRIBUTE TO JAY AND SUSAN WOOD

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today I have the distinct honor of recognizing Jay and Susan Wood of Powell County as Montanans of the Month. Jay and Susan have made it their mission to ensure Montana's veterans never go hungry and have delivered more than 44,000 pounds of food to veterans across 16 Montana counties in 2025 so far. In May alone, they distributed 5,400

pounds to southwest Montana vets, their biggest month on record, surpassing the previous month by 1,400 pounds.

The Woods have created a community with the Southwest Montana Veterans Food Pantry where veterans can feel a part of a family. Additionally, they have built an extraordinary network of food pantries, nonprofit organizations, supermarkets, specialty businesses, and countless other groups across the State that work together to identify and support veterans in need.

Their work is a worthwhile mission, and Jay and Susan are an inspiration to us all to give back to our communities. Their selfless efforts deserve recognition and serve as a powerful reminder to cherish our freedoms and thank those who have fought to defend our country.

Jay and Susan, thank you for your tireless dedication. Your compassion and service to Montana's veterans make our State proud. May God continue to bless your efforts and all the men and women you serve.●

RECOGNIZING DUTCHMAN'S STORE

● 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 Dutchman's Store of Cantril, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

In November 1985, Clair and Virginia Zimmerman founded Dutchman's Store. The Zimmermans, who previously operated a small store under the name Jordan's Country Market in Mount Sterling, purchased an old storefront on Main Street in Cantril and relocated the business there. At that time, they renamed it Dutchman's Store, a reference to their Pennsylvania Dutch heritage and the German dialect spoken by their family, originally from Lancaster County, PA. The store's mission was to provide the local rural community with essential goods at affordable prices.

The story of the business began a few years earlier during the farm crisis when Clair was forced to sell his cows and his family's land went back to the bank. At the encouragement of his father, Clair purchased a one-stall garage and opened Jordan's Country Market, where he and Virginia began selling groceries, fabric, and shoes to farmers and other rural families.

The business remained under Clair and Virginia's leadership until 2010, when their sons Wilmer and Kevin joined in ownership. A few years later, their younger son Kenneth also joined the business. As demand grew, Dutchman's Store expanded three times within downtown Cantril, and in September of 2024, Dutchman's Store opened a new 50,000-square-foot retail facility in Cantril. Currently, the store offers a wide selection of products to

support rural living and is organized into distinct departments, including sewing supplies, clothing, gift items, groceries, and ready-to-eat food. It also includes Dutchman's Cafe, a recent addition to the business serving sandwiches, pizza, baked goods, and a daily lunch buffet.

Dutchman's Store has gradually expanded creating an iconic retail destination surrounded by fields on the edge of Cantril. Locals across southeast Iowa simply refer to the store as "Cantril," proving how closely it is tied to the town's identity. Inside the new building, original signage from the former location has been preserved. Customers often recognize and appreciate the homage paid to the history and years of goods and services provided to Iowa families. As a member of the Villages of Van Buren County, Dutchman's plays a critical role in sustaining the region's economy, which relies heavily on tourism. Clair will frequently walk the parking lot on busy weekends to look at license plates from all across the United States. The business, he says, has grown beyond anything he ever imagined.

Over the decades, Dutchman's Store steadily expanded into a store offering everything from "soup to hay." I commend Dutchman's Store for nearly 40 years of service to southeast Iowa and for its continued contributions to rural commerce, tourism, and community life. I would like to congratulate the Zimmerman family and their entire team, and I look forward to their continued success.●

RECOGNIZING HALL ROBERTS' SON

● 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 Hall Roberts' Son of Postville, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Hall Roberts' Son has a long and distinguished history beginning in 1864 when it was founded by Hall Roberts, Sr., who created a family-owned general mercantile company to sell products such as coal, animal pelts, and steel. Today, Hall Roberts' Son is a wholesale distributor of agricultural products serving hundreds of customers in Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Illinois. The business was passed down through three generations of the Roberts family and is currently owned by Chris Hoffert who serves as president. The company has 13 shareholders, including some of the founder's nieces, and employs 35 people.

Due to this company's exceptional customer service, Hall Roberts' Son has received numerous awards spanning several decades. Hall Roberts, who founded the Hall Roberts Community Pool in 1972, was awarded the Service to Youth Award in the same year. The pool has been renovated three times

since its opening and continues to serve as a refreshing gathering spot in Postville.

In 1995, the business was chosen as the grand marshal for the Postville Homecoming Parade. Most recently, Hall Roberts' Son was recognized with the Cloy Kuhse Positive Impact Award in 2023. The owners are pillars of the community and work to support Iowa charities and events such as the Big Four Fair, Helping Services of Northeast Iowa, the Childcare Center, and Dollars for Scholars.

At its core, Hall Roberts' Son emphasizes quality distribution service while giving back to the community. Over the years, the business has adapted to the ever-changing agriculture industry, distributing products quickly and effectively to customers all across Iowa and the United States. This year, Hall Roberts' Son looks forward to celebrating its 160th anniversary. I want to congratulate the entire Hall Roberts' Son team for their hard work and dedication to providing exceptional products and services. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success.●

RECOGNIZING MARCUS LUMBER

● 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 honor Marcus Lumber of Marcus, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Founded in 1920, Marcus Lumber traces its roots to Roger T. Leavitt and his family's purchase of the Thomas Patton Lumber Company. The business passed from Roger to his two sons John and Roger E., who expanded the business into plumbing and heating services as the company shifted away from coal sales. By the 1970s and 1980s, the family's third generation—Bob, Jim, and Tom—joined the company, further growing its pole barn division and modernizing operations. Today, the business is continued by the fourth generation, including Clay, Grant, Kent, and Hunter, who have added a full-service electrical division.

The Leavitt family prides itself on being a small business rooted in Iowa. Their resilience and commitment have carried them through the decades. In 2004, a devastating fire destroyed their store and delivery fleet. With true Iowa grit and determination, the Leavitt family rebuilt with a modern 18,000-square-foot facility. They later added a large showroom in 2017, which allows customers to explore products and visualize their projects. The company has continued to grow and employs nearly 60 team members today. It also has a new location in Storm Lake and a satellite location in Sioux City.

Throughout the years, Marcus Lumber and the Leavitt family have remained involved in the community, actively participating in organizations