

Prize for helping “bridge scientific and spiritual understandings of humanity’s relationship with the natural world.”

It is an honor to have him visit Washington, DC, and our government officials during his trip to receive the Templeton Prize.

WELCOMING ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

Mr. HUSTED. Mr. President, today I would like to recognize His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew’s visit to Washington, DC. His All-Holiness is visiting our Nation’s Capital in conjunction with his acceptance of the prestigious Templeton Prize, an award which has been received by faith leaders including Mother Teresa, the Dalai Lama, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. The Greek Orthodox community in Ohio and across the country take great pride in this recognition of their faith leader’s global influence.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THREE KANSAS COMMUNITY COLLEGES

• Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize three Kansas community colleges that were recently ranked among the top 2-year colleges in the Nation by WalletHub: Manhattan Area Technical College, Pratt Community College, and Colby Community College.

Community and technical colleges play a vital role in building the workforce of the future and making higher education accessible to students from all backgrounds. They provide affordable, high-quality education that prepares students for meaningful careers or further study. For many, especially in rural areas, these colleges offer the best path to career success and personal advancement.

Manhattan Area Technical College earned the No. 2 national ranking, driven by its consistent record of placing graduates into high-demand careers with strong earning potential. Its focus on career and technical education equips students with skills that are both practical and accessible.

Pratt Community College earned the No. 3 spot nationwide, celebrated for instilling financial responsibility in its graduates, who maintain one of the lowest student loan default rates in the country. This recognition underscores the college’s exceptional return on investment and its commitment to preparing students for long-term professional success.

Colby Community College earned the No. 15 national ranking, reflecting its ongoing excellence in serving students across western Kansas. The college has posted the highest graduation rate among Kansas community colleges in 7 of the past 10 years and led the State’s community colleges in fall-to-fall retention in 5 of the past 6 years.

As a proud community college alum, I know firsthand the opportunities that community and technical colleges provide their students. They open doors for hard-working Americans seeking a better future through education and training. I am proud to see these Kansas colleges leading the way in providing affordable, effective, and transformative education.

I now ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Manhattan Area Technical College, Pratt Community College, and Colby Community College on this national recognition.●

RECOGNIZING THE HOISINGTON DAIRY QUEEN

• Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, today I would like to recognize the closure of a staple restaurant and icon of Hoisington, Ks. After more than 70 years of service to the local community, the Dairy Queen in Hoisington is closing its doors. The Hoisington location opened in 1953, and the business served the area for the following decades until officially closing on August 28, 2025.

For more than 40 of those years, Becky and Leon Steiner owned and operated the business, providing the Hoisington community with decades of good memories and tasty food.

Anyone from a small, close-knit community knows firsthand the importance of a restaurant like Dairy Queen to the town. These restaurants are a place for folks to grab a bite to eat after church, a safe hangout spot for students to gather after school is out, and a place for people of all ages to gather for a cold treat when it is hot. For many, the local ice cream spot is an important part of the community.

Throughout the years, the location of the Dairy Queen had remained the same, despite updates and repairs to the building, including a rebuild after the April 2001 tornado that caused significant damage to the Hoisington community.

The location faced further hardships during the COVID-19 pandemic when, in March 2020, all Dairy Queen franchise stores were required to close their dining rooms as a result of the virus.

And yet, despite these challenges, the Hoisington community consistently rallied around the business and supported its owners by remaining loyal customers of the restaurant.

In 2023, Hoisington’s Dairy Queen recognized the commitment of the community and celebrated 70 years of business at the location by offering a week of special deals with discounted treats such as ice cream cones, fries, hamburgers, and sundaes.

While running a business for decades is no easy task, the Steiners credit the tremendous support of the Hoisington community as the key to their success over the years.

While Becky and Leon Steiner have closed the doors to their restaurant,

they announced that their daughter Amber and her husband John Crawford will open a new business, bringing a “hometown fast food” restaurant to the community to help fill the void left.

I congratulate the Steiners on many decades of successful business in the local community, and I offer my best wishes to the Crawfords as they launch a new restaurant to continue the family legacy of service to the people of Hoisington.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Holstead, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

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

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:16 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 452) to award 3 Congressional Gold Medals to the members of the 1980 U.S. Olympic Men’s Ice Hockey Team, in recognition of their extraordinary achievement at the 1980 Winter Olympics where, being comprised of amateur collegiate players, they defeated the dominant Soviet hockey team in the historic “Miracle on Ice”, revitalizing American morale at the height of the Cold War, inspiring generations and transforming the sport of hockey in the United States.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1107. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize certain health care professionals employed by the Department of Veterans Affairs to deliver, distribute, or dispense to veterans certain controlled medications via telemedicine under certain conditions, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1860. An act to designate Regional Breast and Gynecologic Cancer Care Coordinators to expand the work of the Breast and Gynecologic Oncology System of Excellence at the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2034. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify the requirements of the Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship.

H.R. 2334. An act to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to preempt any squatter’s rights established by State law regarding real property owned by a member of the uniformed services.

H.R. 2701. An act to direct the American Battle Monuments Commission to establish

a program to identify American-Jewish servicemembers buried in United States military cemeteries overseas under markers that incorrectly represent their religion and heritage, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3400. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to assign physicians of the Department of Veterans Affairs to temporarily serve as traveling physicians in the territories and possessions of the United States, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3426. An act to amend title 40, United States Code, to limit the construction of new courthouses under certain circumstances, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3427. An act to require the Comptroller General of the United States to review all clean water-related technical assistance authorities of the Environmental Protection Agency, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3494. An act to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out an information technology system and prioritize certain requirements to manage supply chains for medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

H.R. 3579. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements to the Veterans Readiness and Employment program of Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3767. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for a time frame for the employment in the Department of Veterans Affairs of participants in the Health Professionals Scholarship Program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3854. An act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit a plan to expand the use of certain automation tools in the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3951. An act to amend the Veterans' Benefits Improvements Act of 1996 and the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020 to improve the temporary licensure requirements for contract health care professionals who perform medical disability examinations for the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4446. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify the conditions under which the Secretary of Veterans Affairs is required to redevelop the individualized vocational rehabilitation plan for a veteran, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5100. An act to extend the SBIR and STTR programs, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276h, clause 10 of rule One and the order of the House of January 3, 2025, the Speaker appoints the following Members on the part of the House of Representatives to the Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Group: Mr. CUELLAR of Texas, Mr. CORREA of California, Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, Ms. ESCOBAR of Texas, and Mr. CARBAJAL of California.

The message also announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 1928a, and the order of the House of January 3, 2025, the Speaker appoints the following Member on the part of the House of Representatives to the United States Group of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly: Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 1107. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize certain health care professionals employed by the Department of Veterans Affairs to deliver, distribute, or dispense to veterans certain controlled medications via telemedicine under certain conditions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 1860. An act to designate Regional Breast and Gynecologic Cancer Care Coordinators to expand the work of the Breast and Gynecologic Oncology System of Excellence at the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 2034. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify the requirements of the Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 2334. An act to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to preempt any squatter's rights established by State law regarding real property owned by a member of the uniformed services; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 3400. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to assign physicians of the Department of Veterans Affairs to temporarily serve as traveling physicians in the territories and possessions of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 3426. An act to amend title 40, United States Code, to limit the construction of new courthouses under certain circumstances, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 3427. An act to require the Comptroller General of the United States to review all clean water-related technical assistance authorities of the Environmental Protection Agency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 3494. An act to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out an information technology system and prioritize certain requirements to manage supply chains for medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 3579. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements to the Veterans Readiness and Employment program of Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 3767. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for a time frame for the employment in the Department of Veterans Affairs of participants in the Health Professionals Scholarship Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 3854. An act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit a plan to expand the use of certain automation tools in the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 3951. An act to amend the Veterans' Benefits Improvements Act of 1996 and the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020 to improve the temporary licensure requirements for contract health care professionals who perform medical disability examinations for the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 4446. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify the conditions under which the Secretary of Veterans Affairs is required to redevelop the individualized vocational rehabilitation plan for a veteran, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 5100. An act to extend the SBIR and STTR programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

MEASURES DISCHARGED PETITION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, hereby direct that the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works be discharged of further consideration of S.J. Res. 76, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "Extension of Deadlines in Standards of Performance for New, Reconstructed, and Modified Sources and Emissions Guidelines for Existing Sources: Oil and Natural Gas Sector Climate Review Final Rule," and, further, that the resolution be immediately placed upon the Legislative Calendar under General Orders.

Edward J. Markey, Sheldon Whitehouse, Brian Schatz, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Ben Ray Lujan, Peter Welch, Martin Heinrich, Adam B. Schiff, Jeff Merkley, Christopher Murphy, Angus S. King, Jr., Alex Padilla, Jeanne Shaheen, Lisa Blunt Rochester, Tim Kaine, Christopher A. Coons, John W. Hickenlooper, Tina Smith, Richard Blumenthal, Cory A. Booker, Gary C. Peters, Michael F. Bennet, Andy Kim, Elizabeth Warren, Richard J. Durbin, Patty Murray, Mazie Hirono, Bernard Sanders, Chris Van Hollen, Ron Wyden.

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following joint resolution was discharged from the Committee on Environment and Public Works by petition, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 802(c), and placed on the calendar:

S.J. Res. 76. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "Extension of Deadlines in Standards of Performance for New, Reconstructed, and Modified Sources and Emissions Guidelines for Existing Sources: Oil and Natural Gas Sector Climate Review Final Rule".

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 2805. A bill to provide for the designation of the Russian Federation as a state sponsor of terrorism.

S. 2806. A bill to provide for automatic continuing appropriations.

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 1402. An act to require sellers of event tickets to disclose comprehensive information to consumers about ticket prices and related fees, 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: