

he has dedicated his career to advancing the insurance industry in the Natural State with excellence, professionalism, and a commitment to serving his fellow Arkansans. I would like to recognize Mr. Erstine for this professional achievement, for his more than 20 years of work in the insurance industry, and for his numerous contributions to the state of Arkansas.●

RECOGNIZING 319 DECOR & DESIGN

● 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 319 Decor & Design of Grundy County, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

In 2017, Katie Lewis followed her dream of becoming an interior designer and founded 319 Decor & Design. From a young age, Katie had a passion for creativity and design, often reorganizing her own room. Inspired by her grandmothers and her mother, a small business owner, she launched her business fresh out of college at the age of 21. She began by offering interior styling plans and cabinetry design, steadily expanding her services over time. During the pandemic, Katie worked to grow her business through creative marketing and product diversification. Today, she also encourages other entrepreneurs to pursue their passions, drawing on the support and mentorship that helped her succeed.

What began with simple design planning has grown into a full-service business. Today, 319 Decor & Design offers full-service design, including cabinetry, paint plans, and even a "Room Sweep" service to refresh individual spaces. Additionally, 319 Decor & Design operates a retail store featuring home decor, furniture, lighting, and a children's boutique. With options to shop in person, online, or through curbside pickup, Katie has made 319 Decor & Design a one-stop shop for all home design needs. Together with her team of two interior designers and three store associates, Katie delivers budget-friendly, personalized design experiences that reflect each client's unique style and story.

Katie and 319 Decor & Design are also deeply committed to their community. The company is a proud member of Grundy Center Chamber Main Street, and Katie has also worked with the Small Business Development Center, which she credits with playing a major role in her success. Katie has been involved in the chamber since 2017, first serving as design chair. She now serves as the vice president of the Grundy Center Chamber Main Street, where she helps organize downtown events and supports the mission of strengthening Iowa's communities. 319 Decor & Design exemplifies how small businesses not only drive local economies

but also inspire others to pursue their dreams.

Over the past 8 years, 319 Decor & Design has built a reputation for creativity, flexibility, and a personalized approach towards all their projects. What began as a young girl's dream has grown into a thriving design firm, serving Iowa and beyond. It is my honor to recognize Katie Lewis and the entire 319 Decor & Design team for their outstanding work and dedication to their community. I look forward to their continued success and wish them the very best in the years ahead.●

TRIBUTE TO BRENDA GALLAGHER AND PAM HALSEY

● Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I am honored to recognize Brenda Gallagher of Meredith and Pam Halsey of Center Harbor as September's Granite Staters of the Month. Pam and Brenda have tirelessly worked to protect our environment, including by promoting the preservation of habitats for New Hampshire birds.

Pam and Brenda share a love of swimming and a deep appreciation for the loon, a black and white bird that is prolific in the Lakes Region, and is known for its haunting call. The loon is a symbol of the wild beauty of our State, but the local birds have been threatened by lead poisoning from fishing tackles. Brenda's aunt was one of the founding members of the Loon Preservation Committee and taught Brenda the importance of safeguarding the birds and their habitats. Both women grew up vacationing on Lake Winnepesaukee and now live in the Lakes Region full-time. In 2015, the two friends decided to swim around the islands of Lake Winnepesaukee to raise awareness of both loon preservation and the importance of maintaining good water quality in New Hampshire's lakes.

Continuing their advocacy for New Hampshire's lakes, this year Pam and Brenda decided to push themselves even further and tackle all of the islands in Squam Lake. During the months of July and August, they swam around 28 of Squam's islands, islands that ranged in circumference from 0.12 miles to 2.6 miles, completing swims around one to four islands per day as part of their goal to swim around each island. And they weren't alone on these swims. In addition to friends and family who helped ferry them out to the islands in small boats and kept them safe from other oncoming boats, they were also often joined by loons. The daunting feat was their way of raising awareness for their cause of protecting loons and New Hampshire's lakes.

Pam and Brenda's dedication to the conservation of our State's lakes and wildlife is a true example of the Granite State spirit of outdoor stewardship. Their steadfast and heartfelt commitment to New Hampshire's wilderness is why I am privileged to name them September's Granite Staters of the month.●

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 and withdrawals which were referred to the appropriate committees.

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

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:03 a.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, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3838. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, 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-1895. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of firearms, parts, and components controlled under Category I of the U.S. Munitions List to Denmark in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 25-083) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1896. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to sections 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to the United Kingdom in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 25-038) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1897. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Secretary of State's intent to designate Balochistan Liberation Army as a Foreign Terrorist Organization received in the office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1898. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Secretary of State's intent to designate Lashkar-e-Tayyiba as a Foreign Terrorist Organization received in the office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1899. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Secretary of State's intent, in consultation with the Attorney General and the Secretary of the Treasury, to revoke the designation of al-Nusrah Front, also known as Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham, and its aliases as a Foreign Terrorist Organization received in the office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1900. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Canada, Italy, Norway, and the United Kingdom in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 25-047) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1901. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Norway in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 25-051) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1902. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Australia in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 25-060) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1903. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Austria, Denmark, France, Germany, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Poland, Netherlands, Spain, and UK in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 25-073) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1904. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Japan in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 25-075) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1905. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to the Republic of Korea in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 25-071) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1906. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to sections 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export

Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Italy in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 25-063) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1907. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to sections 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Canada and India in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 25-062) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1908. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "U.S. Compliance with the Authorization for Use of Military Force in Iraq" received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1909. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to the United Kingdom in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 25-019) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1910. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of firearms, parts, and components controlled under Category I of the U.S. Munitions List to Switzerland in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 25-014) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1911. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to sections 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the manufacture of significant military equipment abroad and the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Canada, Czechia, Germany, Hungary, Sweden, and Switzerland in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 25-024) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1912. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to sections 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed amendment for the manufacture of significant military equipment abroad and the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Canada in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 24-018) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1913. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Australia in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 25-058) received in the Office of the President

pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. SCOTT, of South Carolina, for the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

*Benjamin Hobbs, of Ohio, to be Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

*Ronald Kurtz, of Georgia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

*Jonathan Burke, of Georgia, to be Assistant Secretary for Terrorist Financing, Department of the Treasury.

*Chris Pilkerton, of Maryland, to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Investment Security.

*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.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. SMITH, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. WELCH):

S. 2939. A bill to establish universal child care and early learning programs; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. COTTON:

S. 2940. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to include optional practical training for F-1 visa holders and employment for purposes of taxes under the Federal Insurance Contribution Act and the Social Security Act; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COTTON:

S. 2941. A bill to discontinue certain exceptions from H-1B nonimmigrant visa numerical limitation; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL:

S. 2942. A bill for the relief of Valent Kolami; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 2943. A bill to amend chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to allow a veteran to receive a full-year supply of contraceptive pills, transdermal patches, vaginal rings, and other contraceptive products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. SMITH:

S. 2944. A bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to require mandatory certification for certain students and reduce stigma associated with unpaid school meal fees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. LEE:

S. 2945. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize the accountable