

in New York, a meaningful recognition of his work to encourage dialogue, understanding, and care for our shared humanity. He now joins distinguished figures such as the Dalai Lama and Jane Goodall.

I am pleased to recognize His All-Holiness's visit and the impact of his leadership, both globally and for the Greek-American community in Nevada and across the country.

#### TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL SHANNON "SOJU" BEERS

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I would like to recognize Lt. Col. Shannon Beers, known as "Soju," for his exceptional work as a defense fellow in my Senate office for the past year. For more than a decade, Lieutenant Colonel Beers has served his country with honor and distinction, both out in the field and most recently in our Nation's Capitol.

In 2008, Lieutenant Colonel Beers commissioned into the U.S. Air Force as a distinguished graduate of the ROTC program at North Carolina State University, where he received his Bachelor of Science in electrical and computer engineering. He went on to complete the Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training in Texas before completing F-16 fighter aircraft training in 2011. Since that time, Lieutenant Colonel Beers has flown F-16s in the United States, Korea, Japan, Germany, Singapore, and Jordan.

From August 2011 to February 2013, Lieutenant Colonel Beers served as the F-16 flight lead and electronic combat pilot, 36th Fighter Squadron, at Osan Air Base in South Korea. He then went to Shaw Air Force Base in South Carolina, where he served as an F-16 flight lead and assistant chief of scheduling at the 79th Fighter Squadron, as well as an F-16 instructor pilot and wing electronic combat pilot at the 20th Operational Support Squadron. Lieutenant Colonel Beers was then stationed in South Korea from October 2015 to July 2016 as the scheduling flight commander of the 36th Fighter Squadron.

After graduating from the highly selective U.S. Air Force Weapons School, he returned to Osan Air Base in 2017 as the lead tactician of the 36th Fighter Squadron. While serving in South Korea, during a period of heightened tensions due to North Korea's multiple missile tests, he played a key role in the 36th Fighter Squadron's preparations for possible contingencies on the peninsula.

Next, Lieutenant Colonel Beers spent 2 years at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida, where he led the tactical execution of the U.S. military's only evaluation program for air-to-ground weapon systems. While there, Lieutenant Colonel Beers was responsible for validating weapons requirements and testing weapon systems in possible combat scenarios. His work still impacts yearly technical publications and recommendations to the defense industry.

In 2020, after 12 years of Active-Duty service, Lieutenant Colonel Beers joined the D.C. Air National Guard full-time at Joint Base Andrews-Naval Air Facility Washington. He flew F-16 alert missions in defense of the National Capitol Region, playing an integral role in our Nation's defense. In 2022, Lieutenant Colonel Beers transitioned to the C-40C and has flown numerous executive airlift missions supporting U.S. diplomacy around the world.

Adding to this field experience, Lieutenant Colonel Beers also has an exemplary education record. Only the best Air Force pilots are selected to attend the USAF Weapons School, and Lieutenant Colonel Beers's graduation from the school further honed his tactical acumen and superior leadership skills. He also received a Masters of Science in aeronautical science from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. He also graduated from the Air Command and Staff College in 2023.

Given this impressive background, it is no surprise that Lieutenant Colonel Beers came highly recommended to my office. His defense expertise, vast experience, and desire to learn solidified his position as an invaluable member of my national security team. Aside from his tactical acumen, Lieutenant Colonel Beers is an honest, helpful, and generous person who is always willing to pitch in on any task. He quickly became a trusted adviser on all Air Force-related matters, especially concerning my duties on the Airland Subcommittee of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

During his year in the Senate, Lieutenant Colonel Beers staffed numerous high-level engagements and hearings, for which he provided top-quality preparation materials. He drafted various pieces of legislation for this year's National Defense Authorization Act, which will positively impact the military. He has also been instrumental in advocating for and ensuring the future of foreign fighter jet training at Ebbing Air National Guard Base, a top priority for Arkansas.

One of Lieutenant Colonel Beers's most significant contributions to both my office and the nation was his excellent work on the COUNTER Act. This crucial and timely legislation gives the military the necessary authority it currently lacks to protect our bases in the homeland from drone incursions. Lieutenant Colonel Beers's wide-ranging knowledge, deep understanding of technical details, and limitless perseverance through challenges were instrumental to the success of this effort.

Lieutenant Colonel Beers also played a major role in securing support for the Integrated Viper Electronic Warfare Suite. This package provides F-16s with essential electronic warfare capabilities, allowing for more effective operations against the latest generation of aircraft. Lieutenant Colonel Beers's diligent work and persistent efforts—which were reflected in both the One

Big Beautiful Bill passed earlier this year and in the National Defense Authorization Act—contributed to maintaining America's air superiority.

Finally, I cannot honor Lieutenant Colonel Beers without also thanking members of his family, specifically his wife Jenn, an Active-Duty Air Force Officer, and his father, a veteran of the U.S. Army. Their support, encouragement, and influence have helped to make Soju an exceptional servicemember, staffer, and leader.

Lieutenant Colonel Beers has had an impressive career, spanning the Air Force, the Air National Guard, and now, the legislative branch. It has been an honor to have him as part of our team for the past year.

Soju, thank you for your service to the United States and the State of Arkansas. May God continue to bless you and your family in all of your future endeavors.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### RECOGNIZING 3C ROOFING & CONSTRUCTION

• 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 3C Roofing & Construction of Crawford County, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

In just a little over a year since opening their doors, Brendan and Amanda Allard, owners of 3C Roofing & Construction, have demonstrated how a young business can strengthen a community when it is built on compassion, integrity, and service. Named after their three sons, Caius, Callum, and Coe, the company carries the Allards' family values into every project. Though newly established, Brendan brings more than a decade of residential and commercial contracting experience, giving the company a solid foundation from the start. Today, 3C Roofing & Construction and their team of three provide roofing, coatings, repairs, siding, interior and exterior work, seamless gutters, and handyman services. The team has quickly earned a reputation for reliability across Crawford County.

What truly sets the company apart is the Allards' belief that their work extends beyond construction; they see their business as a way to support neighbors when they need it most, a belief that has shaped their actions from day one. When Crossroads of Crawford County began preparing for a fundraiser, the Allards immediately offered a substantial discount to ensure more resources went directly to families in need. Their commitment to the community was further demonstrated when a devastating house fire in Denison displaced a local family. Folks

from 3C Roofing & Construction were first on site to help and later worked to raise funds to support the family's recovery.

They have continued this spirit of generosity by donating goody bags to Kiron Speech Path, providing playground equipment to Immanuel Lutheran Church, and supporting the Cortez family after their home was lost in a late-September fire. In another heartwarming project, the Allards teamed up with Arrick Clausen to help the preschool students at Immanuel Lutheran Preschool in Schleswig create Mother's Day planter boxes. The children used power tools and wood glue to assemble and paint the boxes, which were later engraved with their handwriting, giving them a chance to contribute to something lasting while enjoying hands-on learning.

While many contractors focus solely on the job, Brendan and Amanda have built 3C Roofing & Construction around empathy and service. They regularly use their platform to share local fundraisers and highlight community needs, reflecting their belief that small businesses play a vital role in sustaining rural life. As they continue to grow, the Allards remain committed to pairing high-quality craftsmanship with meaningful contributions to their community, proving that strong businesses don't just build structures, they help build hope.

It is my honor to recognize the Allard family and the entire 3C Roofing & Construction 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.●

#### RECOGNIZING PAULLINA HARDWARE

● 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 Paullina Hardware of O'Brien County, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

In May 2018, Eric and Heidi Brown purchased Weidaman's True Value Hardware, now Paullina Hardware, in Eric's hometown of Paullina, IA. From day one, their mission has been rooted in community pride, providing essential hardware goods, trusted service, and convenience right in their hometown. In 2025, they expanded that mission by acquiring the former Shea's True Value in Primghar, IA, and ensuring that O'Brien County continues to benefit from locally-owned hardware stores. Their belief that "every little community needs a good hardware store" isn't just a slogan, but the guiding philosophy behind their work.

For more than 50 years, the Paullina store has stood as a cornerstone of the community, and under the Browns'

leadership, it has reached new heights. They expanded product lines, modernized inventory systems, and shaped the store to reflect the needs of the people they serve. Today, their two locations operate with a dedicated team of eight employees, whose friendly and reliable service helps maintain the welcoming atmosphere customers value. They have enhanced their toy and seasonal departments and even partnered with independent suppliers to remain flexible and responsive. Long known as "coffee people," the Browns have woven one of their personal passions into the store and now offer coffee equipment and teach customers how to brew quality coffee at home, part of their commitment to bringing neighbors together in meaningful ways.

Eric and Heidi's impact extends well beyond hardware supplies. Thanks to Eric's knowledge of and enthusiasm for biking, Paullina Hardware has also become a trusted regional bike repair shop. They have also expanded into recreational rentals, offering kayaks, paddleboards, and splash mat rentals at Mill Creek State Park. These services help families enjoy the outdoors and support local tourism. During Paullina's 2024 Gemboree celebration, the store proudly sponsored the Paddler Olympics, further demonstrating their commitment to community spirit.

The Browns' dedication to serving rural communities, improving local quality of life, and supporting economic growth is a testament to the power of local ownership. They have partnered with the O'Brien County Economic Development Corporation to expand their business and are members of both the Paullina and Primghar Chambers of Commerce. Eric and Heidi have built more than hardware stores; they have built service hubs and pillars of smalltown resilience. Their innovation, passion, and unwavering commitment to their neighbors make Paullina Hardware and their new Primghar location shining examples of what small businesses can accomplish.

It is my honor to recognize Eric and Heidi Brown and the entire Paullina Hardware 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 to come.●

#### 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 appropriate committees.

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

#### PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REPORT TO ADVISE THAT HE IS EXERCISING HIS AUTHORITY TO DESIGNATE AN ACTING INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY—PM 41

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

I am hereby notifying the Congress that I intend to designate Christian Schrank (Deputy Inspector General for Investigations, Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General) as Acting Inspector General of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, in place of the current Acting Inspector General, James Lisle. Such designation will be effective no less than 30 days from delivery of this message.

The Constitution vests "the executive Power" in the President, who has a duty to "take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed." U.S. Const., Art. II, §1, cl. 1; *id.* at §3. In exercising that power and duty, I have determined that, based on the qualities outlined in 5 U.S.C. 403(a) and the confidence I must place in my appointees, Mr. Schrank is the best available person to serve as Acting Inspector General of the Federal Housing Finance Agency at this time. In my judgment, Mr. Lisle can better serve the Nation performing other duties (i.e., returning to his position as the Federal Housing Finance Agency's audit director).

I am providing this notification as a courtesy, a show of comity and respect between the executive and legislative branches. It should not be interpreted as a concession that the Congress can limit my power to remove any officer. "Because no single person could fulfill [the President's] responsibility[ies] alone, the Framers expected that the President would rely on subordinate officers for assistance." *Seila Law LLC v. Consumer Financial Protection Bureau*, 591 U.S. 197, 203–204 (2020). And the Constitution gives the President "the authority to remove those who assist him in carrying out his duties." *Free Enterprise Fund v. Public Company Accounting Oversight Board*, 561 U.S. 477, 513–514 (2010). "Without such power, the President could not be held fully accountable for discharging his own responsibilities; the buck would stop somewhere else." *Id.* at 514.

Ultimately, I have determined that the priorities of my Administration will be better implemented with this individual in this office. Therefore, I