

Members, Lieutenant Colonel Dunham oversaw a diverse portfolio of Air and Army National Guard priorities, coordinating across the National Guard Bureau joint staff, as well as ANG and ARNG staffs.

Commissioned into the Air Force in 2003 after graduating from the University of Virginia, Lieutenant Colonel Dunham earned both Top Graduate and Top Academic Awards from Undergraduate Air Battle Manager Training. She then served in the E-3 Airborne Warning and Control System Unit at Tinker Air Force Base, OK. She accumulated over 2,000 E-3 flying hours, including 580 combat hours during Operations Enduring Freedom/Iraqi Freedom. She also gained 200 hours on the MU-2 and served as both an instructor and evaluator air battle manager.

As an Air National Guardsman, she defended the National Capitol Region Special Flight Rules Area and prosecuted hundreds of tracks of interest in support of Operation Noble Eagle. During this time, she served as a tactical coordinator, air defense liaison officer for NCR rotary wing operations, air weapons officer, instructor, evaluator, and chief of training at the Joint Air Defense Operation Center and National Capitol Region Coordination Center.

Lieutenant Colonel Susie Dunham exemplified selfless service to our Nation during her 22-year career in the Air Force and Air National Guard. I ask the Senate to join me in celebrating her extraordinary career and enduring legacy.

WELCOMING ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

Mr. FETTERMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to welcome the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, His All Holiness Bartholomew, to the United States.

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew is the longest serving Archbishop of Constantinople in the two millennia history of Christianity. As the highest spiritual authority for nearly 300 million Eastern Orthodox Christians, he has cosponsored international peace conferences; convened Christian, Muslim, and Jewish leaders to promote cooperation and mutual understanding; and advanced the cause of religious freedom around the world.

Environmental stewardship has been a consistent theme of His All Holiness's ministry. In honor of this commitment, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew was awarded the prestigious Templeton Prize.

I am proud to join faith leaders from across Pennsylvania in welcoming His All Holiness to the United States and extend my heartfelt congratulations on this momentous achievement.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DR. WENDY WINTERSTEEN

• Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, Iowa State University President Dr. Wendy Wintersteen is an exemplary leader whose decades of service have left an enduring mark on generations of Iowa students, families, and communities.

Dr. Wintersteen's Iowa State journey began more than 40 years ago as a graduate student studying fly populations around poultry facilities. From those early days in research, she quickly earned her doctoral degree, accepted an assistant professorship, and took on leadership roles in pesticide management programs. Her dedication and vision propelled her to serve as the inaugural endowed dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, CALS, and director of the Iowa Agriculture and Home Economics Experiment Station.

Beyond the university, Dr. Wintersteen's impact has extended across the agricultural and academic communities. She has served with distinction on the boards of the U.S.-Israel Binational Agricultural Research and Development Fund, the Farm Foundation, the Charles Valentine Riley Memorial Foundation, and the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology, as well as the administrative heads section of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities' Board on Agriculture Assembly.

As president of Iowa State University, Dr. Wintersteen has championed entrepreneurship, innovation, and a strong return on investment for students. Her leadership has strengthened Iowa State's national and global reputation for excellence in agricultural research and innovation, placing the university in the top 3 percent for research among nearly 500 universities without a human medical school.

Dr. Wintersteen's commitment to Iowa's students and families has never wavered. Congratulations, Dr. Wintersteen, on an extraordinary career and a lasting legacy of leadership.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. JAMES E. SHMERLING

• Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the remarkable career of Dr. James E. Shmerling. Dr. Shmerling has dedicated nearly five decades to serving the needs of children, their families, and their communities across the Nation.

Dr. Shmerling's career in children's hospitals began in the Children's Hospital of Alabama in 1979. Over the course of 8 years, he progressed in administrative responsibilities, eventually becoming associate administrator. During this time, he completed a master of science in hospital and health administration at the University of Alabama in 1980. Extraordinarily accom-

plished in the world of academia, Dr. Shmerling also earned a master of business administration from Samford University in 1984 and a doctorate of health administration from the Medical University of South Carolina in 1999.

Dr. Shmerling has set a gold standard for hospital leadership and administration across the Nation. He has held key leadership positions at children's hospitals, including the James Whitcomb Riley Hospital for Children at Indiana University, the Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center in Memphis, the Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt University, and the Children's Hospital Colorado. In each position, he brought a high level of expertise, dedication to his patients, and genuine devotion to advancing children's health.

Dr. Shmerling first came to Connecticut when he was appointed as president and chief executive officer of Connecticut Children's on November 2, 2015. He has led the organization through a period of extraordinary growth and innovation, upholding an unwavering commitment to improving children's healthcare across the State and region. A visionary leader, he was responsible for leading Connecticut Children's transformation from a standalone medical center to a leading pediatric health system spanning three States, spearheading the largest expansion in the health system's history with the construction of a new eight-story clinical tower, expanding the neonatal care network, and increasing access to specialized pediatric care.

Dr. Shmerling has also served in many other leadership roles on national boards and committees related to children's health, including the Children's Hospital Association and the American Hospital Association's Maternal and Child Health Council. He has been widely recognized by his peers, including as a fellow in the American College of Health Care Executives. Dr. Shmerling has also championed other worthwhile causes throughout his career, notably promoting childhood literacy. In Connecticut, he has served as a member of the Hartford Board of Education and is currently a board member of United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut.

Dr. Shmerling's contributions to the cause of children's healthcare have been historic. Connecticut Children's and the health and well-being of our State's children are stronger than ever thanks to Dr. Shmerling's leadership. I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing and celebrating the remarkable career and work of Dr. James E. Shmerling.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

At 10:28 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by

Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills and joint resolution:

H.R. 970. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to periodically review the automatic maximum coverage under the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance program and the Veterans' Group Life Insurance program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 983. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to disapprove courses of education offered by a public institution of higher learning that does not charge the in-State tuition rate to a veteran using certain educational assistance under title 10 of such Code, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1912. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the repayment by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of benefits misused by a fiduciary, and for other purposes.

H.J. Res. 130. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Land Management relating to "Buffalo Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment".

The enrolled bills and joint resolution were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

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-2159. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, notice of the intent to designate the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as a Major Non-NATO Ally; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2160. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of the continuation of the national emergency with respect to the situation in Nicaragua that was declared in Executive Order 13851 of November 27, 2018; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2161. A communication from the Congressional and Public Affairs Specialist, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the Entity List" (RIN0694-AK07) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2025; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2162. A communication from the Congressional and Public Affairs Specialist, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "One Year Suspension of Expansion of End-User Controls for Affiliates of Certain Listed Entities" (RIN0694-AK34) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2025; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2163. A communication from the Congressional and Public Affairs Specialist, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Additions to the Entity List" (RIN0694-AK05) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2025; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2164. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "National Health Service Corps Report to Congress for 2024"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2165. A communication from the Section Chief, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Allocation of Foreign Income Taxes Resulting from the Repeal of Section 998(c)(2); Recognition of Pretransition Gain or Loss under Section 987" (Notice 2025-72) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2025; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2166. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment for Patients and Communities Act: Section 1004 Medicaid Drug Review and Utilization"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2167. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, transmitting the report of an officer authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of lieutenant general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777a; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2168. A communication from the Executive Director, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Health Care Professionals Practicing Via Telehealth" (RIN2900-AQ59) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2025; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-2169. A communication from the Branch Chief, Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Enhanced Air Cargo Advance Screening (ACAS)" (RIN1651-AB61) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2025; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2170. A communication from the Board Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General and the Semiannual Management Report on the Status of Audits for the period from April 1, 2025 through September 30, 2025; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2171. A communication from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency's Semiannual Report of the Office of Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2025 through September 30, 2025; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2172. A communication from the Acting Chairman, Merit Systems Protection Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board Agency Financial Report Fiscal Year 2025"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2173. A communication from the Division Chief of Regulatory Affairs and Directives, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Rescission of the Management and Protection of the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska Regulations, Issued May 7, 2024" (RIN1004-AF02) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2025; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2174. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Propylamide; Extension of Tolerance for Emergency Exemption" (FRL No. 13038-01-OCSP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2025; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2175. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, two (2) reports relative to nominations, vacancies, designations of service in acting roles, discontinuations of service in acting roles and actions on nominations for positions covered by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2025; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2176. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, two (2) reports relative to nominations, vacancies, designations of service in acting roles, discontinuations of service in acting roles and actions on nominations for positions covered by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2025; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2177. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Michigan; Infrastructure SIP Requirements for the 2015 Ozone NAAQS; Michigan State Board Requirements" (FRL No. 13010-02-R5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 19, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2178. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; South Carolina; Charlotte-Gastonia-Rock Hill Area Maintenance Plan for the 2008 8-Hour Ozone NAAQS" (FRL No. 12961-02-R4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 19, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2179. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Rhode Island; Decommissioning of Stage II Vapor Recovery Systems" (FRL No. 12928-02-R1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 19, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2180. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval of the Clean Air Act, Section 112(l), Authority for Hazardous Air Pollutants; State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protections; Approval of the Clean Air Act Section 502, State Operating Permit Programs, State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protections" (FRL No. 12924-02-R1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 19, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2181. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the