

storms, to high fuel and fertilizer costs, to a global pandemic. During the COVID-19 pandemic, when hunger in Rhode Island jumped by 41 percent in a matter of months and local growers could not market their goods, Ken played a pivotal role in connecting residents with local producers. As supply chain disruptions led many to seek food closer to home, Ken saw the opportunity to build stronger ties between consumers and fresh, locally produced food from local farms and fisheries.

In addition, Ken guided the State through public health challenges affecting the farming industry, including efforts to monitor and respond to mosquito-borne illnesses such as Eastern equine encephalitis, EEE; the West Nile virus; and bird flu.

Ken Ayars' career has been marked by a special dedication. He listened to farmers and responded to their needs with commonsense solutions that benefit the whole community. I join people across Rhode Island in thanking Ken for his work and distinguished service to our State. I wish him and his family all the best as he embarks on his next chapter.

#### TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL FELIX A. ABEYTA

Mr. HICKENLOOPER. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a great American and an exceptional member of the U.S. Space Force, Lt. Col. Felix Abeyta.

A true champion for our Nation and expert communicator, this Colorado native and U.S. Air Force Academy graduate brings over 15 years of distinguished uniformed service. He has consistently demonstrated exemplary leadership and an unparalleled ability to navigate complex legislative landscapes in service to our country and the 119th U.S. Congress. He left an indelible mark as the first guardian dedicated to the U.S. Senate, providing that vital link between Congress and the Space Force as he effectively advocated for critical defense priorities. Throughout his military career, he has demonstrated exceptional and unrivaled excellence in a myriad of positions critical to U.S. defense and national security worldwide.

As a legislative liaison and action officer in the Department of the Air Force's Senate Legislative Liaison Division, Lieutenant Colonel Abeyta expertly advised Department of the Air Force senior leadership, developing strategic opportunities to advance Air and Space Force priorities on Capitol Hill. His leadership facilitated seamless collaboration on behalf of the Department of the Air Force across 64 congressional offices, expertly resolving 103 requests for information. He supported numerous congressional engagements and delegations to showcase Department equities in the United States and abroad. Most notably, his strategic acumen during key hearings on Space Force capabilities was instru-

mental in securing a \$32 billion investment from Congress and forging a stronger relationship between the Department and the Senate. Through his tireless efforts, Lieutenant Colonel Abeyta secured direct engagement between Members of Congress and key decision-makers, including the Secretary of the Air Force, resulting in successful advancements of critical Space Force initiatives. Leveraging his deep expertise in Space Force acquisitions, Lieutenant Colonel Abeyta secured congressional alignment for the future of space-based global satellite communications for 12 service vehicles, degrading adversary jamming capabilities and protecting critical national security objectives.

Finally, as the sole guardian on the Department of the Air Force Senate liaison team, he effectively advocated for Department priorities. Collaborating with U.S. Space Command, he arranged 10 visits to 31 space-based locations for key decision-makers, highlighting capabilities, and the quality-of-life concerns of guardians. His efforts have expanded the U.S. Space Force Caucus by 25 percent on the Hill. Due to his direct involvement, advocacy, and stewardship, Members of Congress were able to make informed decisions and ensured the Department of the Air Force was properly resourced and funded.

After serving in this crucial role and becoming a fixture on Capitol Hill, Lieutenant Colonel Abeyta will move on to become the system program manager for the Space Launch Procurement Branch, Space Systems Command, Los Angeles Air Force Base, CA. Felix and his wife Zantia have instilled a legacy of service for their three children Dylan, Tillman, and Charlotte. They have sacrificed much as a family in service to our Nation. I am thankful for Felix's service and his work with my office and the Senate over the past year on issues of vital importance to the defense of the United States. I salute this American patriot whose selfless service has kept our country safe and strong.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO DUSHUN L. SCARBROUGH, SR.

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize an outstanding Arkansan, DuShun L. Scarbrough, Sr., who recently received two distinguished national honors that reflect his unwavering commitment to service, leadership, and community empowerment.

We were tremendously proud to learn Scarbrough had earned the 2026 Beloved Community Civic Leadership Award by The King Center, a nonprofit steward of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s legacy led by Dr. Bernice A. King. This accolade honors individuals whose work reflects a deep commitment to

advancing justice, fostering unity, and serving others in the footsteps of MLK Jr.

Also this year, he became only the second Arkansan to receive the Freedom Flame Award from the organizers of the Selma Bridge Crossing Jubilee, an annual event that commemorates the legacy of the Selma to Montgomery voting rights marches. This distinction celebrates leaders who carry forward the enduring spirit of courage, sacrifice, and meaningful social change.

These recognitions are a testament to Scarbrough's lifelong dedication to uplifting others. Raised in Little Rock by his grandmother and aunts, he chose a path of purpose and perseverance, becoming a positive force in his community and an advocate for opportunity and inclusion. He graduated from Philander Smith College and pursued further education before returning to Arkansas, yet has remained steadfast in advancing the ideals championed by Dr. King while ensuring that personal, professional, and civic opportunity remain accessible to all people, regardless of race, creed, color, or background.

Scarbrough's service as the executive director of the Arkansas Martin Luther King Jr. Commission has consistently reflected his belief in this mission and a dedication to uplift and invest in his community, as well as our entire State. His efforts have activated others, encouraged new ideas and inspired the next generation to make a lasting impact. In fact, thanks to his vision and guidance, The Natural State now hosts the largest service day nationwide in honor of the life of MLK Jr.

Scarbrough follows in the footsteps of exceptional Arkansans, including Dr. Maya Angelou, whose legacies are hallmarks of progress and positive leadership that shape countless lives.

DuShun Scarbrough, Sr.'s story is one of resilience, faith, and determination. His message is simple but powerful: work hard, stay focused, and do not be afraid to create new paths where none exist. I commend all his extraordinary achievements and the example he sets. Arkansas is proud of his many contributions, and our Nation is stronger because of his service.●

##### RECOGNIZING THE ARCHER CENTER

• Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, today I rise to honor a program that has helped shape generations of Texans who come to Washington not simply to observe public service, but to participate. This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Archer Fellowship Program and the Archer Center in Washington, DC. Founded in 2001 by Congressman Bill Archer and his longtime chief of staff Don Carlson, the Archer Center is "where Texas meets the world" and provides talented students from across the University of Texas System the chance to live, learn, and intern in the Nation's Capital.

The Archer Center's mission is to educate the next generation of leaders and promote civic engagement, civil discourse, and public service. These foundational principles have united our country for 250 years, and it is essential now more than ever to instill them in our students. Archer Fellows engage in full-time internships aligned with their goals while participating in coursework that connects their daily experiences to the larger policy process, giving students the opportunity to fully grasp the day-to-day realities of working in public policy.

Over the past quarter-century, the Archer Center has cultivated a network of more than 2,000 alumni who now serve in a wide range of roles and impact various communities. Many students intern in Texas congressional offices, including my own, and consistently reflect the Archer Center's values of professionalism, curiosity, and respect in their hard work.

I am proud to note that a former member of my staff serves as the Archer Center's longtime executive director and has been a driving force behind its success over the past 20 years. Katie Romano served as a communications intern during my 2002 U.S. Senate campaign before joining my Washington, DC, office as constituent relations coordinator in 2003. She then went on to work for Mrs. Laura Bush and the First Family during the 2004 election and contributed to the 55th Presidential Inaugural Committee before joining the Archer Center staff in 2006. Her positive contributions to the Archer Center are evident, and I am proud of the impact she continues to have on our fellow Texans.

Preparing young people for public service is not a task to be taken for granted. Institutions must be willing to invest in mentorship and create an environment where students learn how to engage in disagreement without losing respect for one another. That is exactly the kind of preparation the Archer Center seeks to provide, and it is why this milestone deserves recognition.

So today I want to commend the Archer Center's students, alumni, faculty, and staff, and recognize those who teach, mentor, and support the program. Congratulations to the Archer Center on 25 years of service to Texas and to our country. Thank you for helping students from across the UT System come to Washington to chart a lifetime of service to our Nation and the great State of Texas.●

#### TRIBUTE TO NORMA ASHBY

● Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today I have the honor to recognize Norma Ashby, a Montana broadcasting legend.

Ashby is one of Montana's most iconic broadcasters and a community champion. A fourth-generation Montanan raised on a ranch near Winston, Norma began her journalism career in high school and obtained her jour-

nalism degree from the University of Montana.

Following her graduation, Norma Ashby was a broadcaster at KRTV in Great Falls from 1962–1988. She was a hostess and producer of the award-winning “Today in Montana” show, interviewing more than 26,000 guests. Ashby also produced 21 television documentaries and co-produced “The Great Falls Story: A Tribute to 125 Years” in 2009. She received a multitude of awards and honors, including TV Broadcaster of the Year in 1985, the Most Influential Woman in Great Falls, and the Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Montana. She was also recognized as an honorary member of the Blackfeet Tribe. In 2010, Ashby was inducted into the Montana Broadcasters Hall of Fame.

Norma Ashby has served as a primary voice and leader in communities across Montana, and her legacy will continue for generations to come.

It is my distinct honor to recognize Norma Ashby for her lifelong dedication to her decades of work in journalism, history, and the arts, and for helping preserve our State's heritage for future generations.●

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:18 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 1020. An act to require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to extend the time period during which licensees are required to commence construction of certain hydropower projects.

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

H.R. 2319. An act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct a review to evaluate the status of research on lung cancer in women and underserved populations, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2493. An act to reauthorize certain programs regarding rural health care.

H.R. 3419. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the telehealth network and telehealth resource centers grant programs.

H.R. 5201. An act to direct the Federal Communications Commission to publish a report on implementation of the Kari's Law Act of 2017, and for other purposes.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 3419. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the telehealth network and telehealth resource centers grant programs; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 5201. An act to direct the Federal Communications Commission to publish a report on implementation of the Kari's Law Act of 2017, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

#### MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

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

H.R. 2319. An act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct a review to evaluate the status of research on lung cancer in women and underserved populations, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2493. An act to reauthorize certain programs regarding rural health care.

#### MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 4378. A bill to combat fraud in Federal programs, 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-3191. A communication from the Marine Resources Management Specialist, Office of Protected Resources, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to Alaska LNG Project in Cook Inlet” (RIN0648–BN50) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 15, 2026; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3192. A communication from the Secretary of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Application of the Federal Securities Laws to Certain Types of Crypto Assets and Certain Transactions Involving Crypto Assets” (RIN3038–AF67) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 6, 2026; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3193. A communication from the Secretary of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Climate-Related Financial Risk; Withdrawal of Request for Information” (17 CFR Chapter 1) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 6, 2026; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3194. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Sweet Onions Grown in the Walla Walla Valley of Southeast Washington and Northeast Oregon; Decreased Assessment Rate” (Docket No. AMS–SC–24–0080) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2026; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3195. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Critical Infrastructure Protection Reliability Standard CIP-003-11 (Cyber Security-Security Management Controls)” ((RIN1902–AG37) (Docket No. RM25–8–000)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 6, 2026; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.