

in the galaxy of states that make up the greatest nation in the world.” As we mourn this remarkable leader, we pray for Dirk’s loved ones, including his children Heather and Jeff, and his bride of nearly 50 years, Patricia. We were all honored to know Dirk and to have served alongside him. Dirk was our friend, a dedicated public servant, and advocate for Idaho, our veterans, our great outdoors, and more. He will be dearly missed.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING BRIGHT MINDS ACADEMY OF HAYS, KANSAS

• Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Bright Minds Academy of Hays, KS, in celebration of National Small Business Week and to commend its nomination as the 2026 Kansas Rural Small Business of the Year.

Since 1963, National Small Business Week has highlighted the essential role of small businesses in driving economic growth and creating jobs in communities across our Nation. Every year, the U.S. Small Business Administration honors businesses that exemplify innovation, resilience, and a commitment to service.

Founded by Nick and Andrea Felder, Bright Minds Academy has become a trusted provider of early childhood education for families in Hays. As parents themselves, they were inspired to open a childcare center to support children’s learning and serve the needs of working families in their community.

From its beginnings as a single childcare center, Bright Minds Academy now spans multiple locations across Hays, a reflection of its steady leadership. Today, it employs approximately 100 staff and is licensed to care for over 300 children.

Bright Minds Academy is dedicated to providing a safe, fun, and nurturing environment for infants and young children. Their mission to provide high-quality care and education ensures that Kansas children have a strong foundation for success in the future.

I now ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Bright Minds Academy for its service to Kansas families and communities and in congratulating Nick and Andrea Felder on this well-deserved honor.●

RECOGNIZING BROKEN BOWL CATERING

• Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, as a member and former chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each month I recognize and celebrate the American entrepreneurial spirit by highlighting the success of a small business in my home State of Idaho. Today, I am proud to honor Broken Bowl Catering in New Plymouth as the Idaho Small Business of the Month for April 2026.

Jacob Bybee began Broken Bowl Catering in the spring of 2018. At just 14 years old, Jacob fell in love with culinary arts and always dreamed his path would lead to traditional restaurant ownership. After graduating from high school, a job offer with a Utah-based catering group gave him the opportunity to follow his passion and create an elevated experience for customers.

Today, Broken Bowl Catering takes pride in playing a role in many of life’s most important moments. Whether Idahoans are celebrating an anniversary or new beginning, Jacob and his team strive to provide high-quality and special experiences for all. Their commitment to exceptional food and service is shown through their control, clarity, and trust when working with clients behind the scenes.

The name Broken Bowl comes from a story of faith that inspired Jacob during a challenging period. In the story, a follower faces a setback when his bow breaks, seemingly a final straw, but the follower turns to prayer, relying on his faith. Jacob has found himself in a similar place, and while he has never broken a bow, he has certainly broken a few bowls—each broken bowl representing lessons learned through adversity, shaping both him and his business.

Congratulations to Jacob and the Broken Bowl Catering team on being recognized as the Idaho Small Business of the Month for April 2026. Your dedication to excellence makes Idaho proud, and I look forward to your continued growth and success.●

TRIBUTE TO GAIGE HOMER

• Mr. SHEEHY. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to express my appreciation to Gaige Homer for his hard work as an intern in my Bozeman, MT, office this spring.

Gaige is a native of Truckee, CA. He currently attends Montana State University, where he is studying to obtain a degree in political science. Gaige has demonstrated a strong work ethic, and his efforts have been key to our mission to serve the people of Montana.

I want to thank Gaige for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It has been a pleasure having him as part of our team this spring, and I look forward to having him join us in our Washington, DC, office for an internship this summer.●

TRIBUTE TO JOE McDONNELL

• Mr. SHEEHY. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to express my appreciation to Joe McDonnell for his hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office this spring.

Joe is a native of Ridgewood, NJ. He attends Wake Forest University, where he is studying to obtain degrees in anthropology and classical languages. Joe has demonstrated a strong work ethic, and his efforts have been key to our mission to serve the people of Montana here in our Nation’s Capital.

I want to thank Joe for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It has been a pleasure having him as part of our team this spring, and I wish him all the best as he continues to build a bright future for himself.●

TRIBUTE TO AVA NORTHRUP

• Mr. SHEEHY. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to express my appreciation to Ava Northrup for her hard work as an intern in my Bozeman, MT, office this spring.

Ava is a native of Leavenworth, WA. She currently works as a wildland firefighter for the U.S. Forest Service and obtained a degree in political science from Montana State University. Ava has demonstrated a strong work ethic, and her efforts have been key to our mission to serve the people of Montana.

I want to thank Ava for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It has been a pleasure having her as part of our team this spring, and I wish her all the best as she continues to build a bright future for herself.●

TRIBUTE TO MADISON SPEAR

• Mr. SHEEHY. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to express my appreciation to Madison Spear for her hard work as an intern in my Missoula, MT, office this spring.

Madison is a native of Missoula, MT. She currently owns her own photography and bookkeeping businesses. She attended University of Montana where she obtained her associate of arts degree. Madison has demonstrated a strong work ethic, and her efforts have been key to our mission to serve the people of Montana.

I want to thank Madison for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It has been a pleasure having her as part of our team this spring, and I wish her all the best as she continues to build a bright future for herself.●

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD CHILDRESS

• Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Richard Childress, a North Carolina native, NASCAR Hall of Fame team owner, and a leader whose impact reaches far beyond the racetrack.

From humble beginnings, Mr. Childress built Richard Childress Racing into one of the most respected organizations in motorsports, creating jobs for hundreds of North Carolinians and competing at the highest levels of the sport. He has led his teams to more than 200 victories and 17 championships, including 6 with the legendary Dale Earnhardt, and helped shape NASCAR into what it is today.

What stands out most about Richard Childress is how he has used that success to support others, especially those

who have served our country. He has made it a priority to show up for servicemembers and veterans in meaningful ways. He has visited troops at home and overseas, hosted monthly “Coffee with Veterans” gatherings at his race shop in Welcome, NC, and regularly opened his facilities to Active-Duty units for team-building and fellowship. These are not one-time gestures. They reflect a personal commitment to honoring those who serve. His efforts have been recognized with the Helping a Hero Lee Greenwood Patriot Award.

Mr. Childress has also used his platform to support American workers and communities. Through his businesses, including engine development, manufacturing, and agriculture, he has invested in North Carolina and created opportunities across multiple industries. He has been a consistent advocate for American agriculture and homegrown energy, supporting policies that benefit rural communities and strengthen domestic production.

Alongside his wife Judy, Mr. Childress cofounded the Childress Institute for Pediatric Trauma, which has grown into a nationwide effort to improve how we prevent and treat serious injuries in children. It reflects his belief that success should be used to make a difference in the lives of others.

Mr. Childress’ legacy is defined not only by his accomplishments in motorsports, but by his commitment to people, his support for veterans, and his investment in his home State of North Carolina. He has set an example that extends well beyond the track and into communities across our State and Nation.●

#### TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT GENERAL THOMAS L. JAMES

● Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, today I recognize the distinguished career and extraordinary service of LTG Thomas L. James, U.S. Army. A native of Petal, MS, Lieutenant General James served in uniform for more than four decades, leaving an indelible mark on the security of our Nation.

In 1982, Lieutenant General James took the first step in his military journey by enlisting in the Mississippi National Guard. He served first as a medic and operating room technician with the 114th Support Group. Later, he joined the 20th Special Forces Group (Airborne).

From the beginning, Lieutenant General James was committed to soldier care, unit readiness, and high standards of service—values that would define his entire career. In 1988, after completing his education at the University of Southern Mississippi and earning his commission through ROTC, he entered Active Duty as an Army aviator.

Lieutenant General James would go on to command at every level from platoon to brigade. In July 2014, he assumed leadership of the 1st Space Bri-

gade. Under his charge, the Army’s only brigade dedicated to space operations became more adept at missile warning, satellite communications, and space situational awareness. Combatant commanders across the globe benefit from these enhanced capabilities.

At the Joint Functional Component Command—Space and the Joint Force Space Component Command, Lieutenant General James held a number of senior roles. Among his responsibilities, he handled global operations, planning, and exercises in support of joint and allied forces.

When U.S. Space Command was reestablished in 2019, Lieutenant General James was selected to command Joint Task Force-Space Defense. He oversaw the defense of critical space assets and the integration of space capabilities into the joint force. He became the Deputy Commander of Combined Joint Task Force-Space Operations. Then, in December 2023, he was confirmed as Deputy Commander of U.S. Space Command. His promotion to lieutenant general took place at the armory in Hattiesburg, MS. It was the site where he took his oath of enlistment more than 40 years earlier, creating a fitting symbol of a life dedicated to service.

General James’ career spanned work in the Gulf War, the Iraq War, and the war in Afghanistan. He is a decorated veteran. His most notable awards include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, two awards of the Legion of Merit, and two Bronze Star Medals. Notably, he is the first Army space operations officer to advance beyond the rank of brigadier general, a testament to his pioneering role in elevating space as a warfighting domain.

While I recognize Lieutenant General James, it is important to honor the sacrifice and support of his family. His wife Nicole and his daughter Rachel have stood beside him these many years. They have shared in the hardships of military life and contributed immeasurably to his success. Their strength, patience, and devotion exemplify the resilience of military families who give so much in service to the Nation.

I speak on behalf of a thankful State when I express my gratitude to LTG Thomas L. James. We are grateful for his faithful service to the United States. His career reflects honor upon his character, his family, the people of Mississippi, the Army, U.S. Space Command, and the Nation he has so ably defended.●

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 6:10 p.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, with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 1318. 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.

#### 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-3235. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Chemical Manufacturing Area Source Technology Review” (FRL No. 7623-02-OAR) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2026; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3236. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) Program: Standards for 2026 and 2027, Partial Waiver of 2025 Cellulosic Biofuel Volume Requirement, and Other Changes” (FRL No. 11947-02-OAR) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2026; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3237. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Quality Plan; California; Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District; Replacing Outdated Requirements; Correction” (FRL No. 11949-03-R9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2026; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3238. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Ohio: Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revisions” (FRL No. 12244-02-R5) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2026; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3239. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; Michigan; Detroit 2010 Sulfur Dioxide Redesignation and Maintenance Plan” (FRL No. 12841-02-R5) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2026; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3240. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; Oregon; 2024 Vehicle Inspection Program Updates” (FRL No. 12873-02-R10) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2026; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3241. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency,