

cost beyond the approval authorities set forth in paragraph 1.4(a)(4)(i). The Secretary of the Senate or the Senate Sergeant at Arms may recommend to the Chair, approval of a contractor's claim that exceeds this authority.

(d) All final determinations from the Secretary of the Senate or the Senate Sergeant at Arms may be appealed to the Chair.

(e) Approval authorities shall notify the Secretary of the Senate or the Senate Sergeant at Arms, as appropriate, whenever it appears that a significant disagreement or dispute is incapable of resolution by negotiation and that it will be necessary to invoke the formal dispute procedures.

(f) All final determinations shall include the following language:

"This determination is made in accordance with the disputes clause and shall be final unless, within thirty (30) business days from the date of its receipt, a written notice of appeal is filed with the Chair of the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration and furnished to the approval authority. The notice of appeal, which must be signed by you as the contractor or by an attorney acting on your behalf, and which may be in letter form, shall indicate that an appeal is intended and shall refer to this document and identify the contract by number. The notice of appeal shall include a statement of the reasons why the determination decision is considered to be erroneous. The Chair of the Committee on Rules and Administration, acting on behalf of the Committee, may ask the Comptroller General for a recommendation on the appeal."

4.3 Time for Filing a Claim

Claims must be filed within ninety (90) days of the date the claim accrued.

4.4 Negotiated Resolutions

Approval authorities may negotiate resolutions involving contract modifications only to the extent such modifications are within their authority.

4.5 Appeal Authority

The Chair, acting on behalf of the Rules Committee, is the final authority for review of final decisions regarding contract disputes and shall be designated as such in all contracts when the determination has the effect of increasing the contract cost beyond the approval authorities set forth in paragraph 1.4(a)(4)(ii). The Chair, acting on behalf of the Rules Committee, may ask the Comptroller General for an advisory opinion.

4.6 Time for Appeals

(a) Appeals from a final determination must be filed with the Chair within thirty (30) business days of the appellant's receipt of the determination in order to be considered by the Chair. For the purposes of this section, "filed" means received by the Rules Committee. Appeals must be filed before 5:00 p.m. (ET), unless otherwise stated.

(b) If the end of a filing period measured in days does not fall on a business day, the next business day shall be the last day of the period.

(c) Failure to comply with the time limits set in accordance with this section may result in dismissal of the appeal.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 125, the confirmation of the en bloc consideration of 49 nominations on the Executive Calendar pursuant to the provisions of S. Res. 690. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted nay.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 126, motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 735, Sheria Akins Clarke, of South Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted nay.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 127, confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 735, Sheria Akins Clarke, of South Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted nay.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF DELAWARE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

• Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize and congratulate the Delaware Community Foundation, DCF, on 40 years of extraordinary service to the State of Delaware through its enduring commitment to philanthropy, community investment, and collaborative leadership. Over the last four decades, DCF has brought together individuals, families, businesses, and nonprofits to strengthen communities and find solutions that work for all Delawareans.

Delaware Community Foundation was established in 1986 with Jack Quindlen, then-treasurer of the DuPont Corporation, serving as its first board chair. Just a few years later, in 1989, Governor Mike Castle endorsed the Delaware Community Foundation, and the State appropriated \$2 million to support nonprofit organizations through the DCF "as an investment in the charitable future of Delaware."

Since its founding, the Delaware Community Foundation has celebrated many milestones in service to our community. In 1992, the DCF exceeded \$1 million in grants to nonprofits for the first time. The following year, it elected the first female chair, making another important step forward in its leadership. In 1997, the community services building opened in Wilmington, providing affordable office space for the nonprofits in the region. The DCF worked diligently on this project to bring that vision to reality and remains headquartered there today. In 2002, the Delaware Community Foundation expanded its reach in the State and established its first southern Delaware office in Georgetown.

In the mid-2000s, the DCF recognized the importance of cultivating future leaders in philanthropy and established the Next Gen North and Next Gen South young professionals groups. Together, these groups have contributed more than \$500,000 to their communities up and down the State of Delaware while also inspiring a new generation of civic engagement and philanthropic leadership.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Delaware Community Foundation once

again showed its unwavering commitment to the State and raised \$5 million in just a few months. It was one of the first organizations in the country to begin granting funds to nonprofits and communities facing unprecedented challenges.

Today, the Delaware Community Foundation continues to be a thriving philanthropic organization, providing necessary grant funding, as well as technical assistance and support, to nearly 200 nonprofits in the State that have established funds at the DCF. This year alone, the DCF will grant more than \$25 million to the Delaware community, and by the end of 2026, it is on track to deliver a record-breaking \$1 million in scholarships to allow students across Delaware to further their academic careers without the burden of excessive student debt.

At a time where philanthropy is more critical than ever to ensuring our local communities can grow and thrive, the DCF is working tirelessly to help organizations meet the moment. In the spring of 2025, the DCF opened the Meet the Moment grant program, a \$545,000 grant program, offering grants of up to \$20,000 to support a variety of needs for nonprofits. Over 175 organizations applied, with requests totaling above \$3.3 million, signaling the dire need for philanthropic support in this moment. The Delaware Community Foundation has provided more than \$1 million in grants and programming to date through the Meet the Moment program to help organizations grow and work in an ever-changing philanthropic landscape.

Today, I invite my colleagues to join me and the people of Delaware in honoring the outstanding work of the Delaware Community Foundation in celebration of its 40th anniversary. I extend my deepest gratitude to the DCF and know that its steadfast leadership will continue to be reflected in all they do for the State of Delaware for years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO TROOPER LEWIS JOHNSON

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today I have the honor to recognize Montana Highway Patrol Trooper Lewis Johnson.

Montana's law enforcement officers and personnel exemplify some of the best qualities a person can demonstrate: service, courage, and resilience. Every day when our officers put on their uniforms, they put their lives on the line to keep our communities safe.

Trooper Johnson sets the highest example of this. In February of 2023, Trooper Johnson was tragically struck by a fleeing vehicle near Eureka while in pursuit. He suffered critical injuries and nearly lost his life. After spending several days on life support in intensive care, Johnson defied all odds and miraculously recovered.

In January of 2025, Colonel Kurt Sager returned Trooper Johnson's

badge to him after it had been held for evidence in the case. His badge demonstrates not only his bravery, but his selflessness and his steadfast commitment to protecting his community.

Today, we recognize Trooper Johnson for his perseverance and dedication. I am immensely proud of him, and on behalf of Montana, it is my honor to thank him for his service to our great State.●

RECOGNIZING MAPLETON HOMETOWN VARIETY

● 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 Mapleton Hometown Variety of Monona County, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

After being honorably discharged from the Air National Guard, Jerry Koenigs returned to his hometown of Mapleton. In 1987, he acquired what was then a Ben Franklin Store from his aunt and uncle after working there for over 10 years. Just a few years later, Jerry married his wife Carol, and the couple took on the business together. In the early 2000s, the store was renamed to Mapleton Hometown Variety. The shop was established to serve the everyday needs of the Mapleton community through a welcoming, locally owned retail experience. Over the years, it has become a trusted destination for residents seeking a wide variety of products, including fabric, toys, gifts, home decor, craft supplies, greeting cards, and floral arrangements. Hometown Variety has earned a strong reputation for quality products, personalized customer service, and a shopping experience rooted in the values of small-town Iowa.

For nearly four decades, Hometown Variety has consistently provided customers with both everyday essentials and thoughtful items for special occasions. After Jerry passed away in 2020, Carol continued his legacy by cultivating a loyal customer base and welcoming atmosphere that keeps families returning year after year. Supported by a dedicated team of under 10 employees, the business reflects the reliability and strong workplace culture often found in Iowa's most enduring small businesses.

Beyond its retail offerings, Mapleton Hometown Variety reflects the strong entrepreneurial spirit that defines Iowa small businesses. Throughout its decades of operation, the business has supported community growth and local engagement through involvement in organizations such as the Mapleton Community Club, Rotary Club, and Maple Valley Development. The business was also recognized for their continued service and support at a local 4-H event.

Carol remains actively engaged in the community through donations to

local events, schools, churches, and charitable causes, demonstrating a longstanding commitment to supporting families and neighbors in Mapleton. Her appreciation for the loyal customers and strong local support that have sustained Hometown Variety reflects the enduring connection between Iowa small businesses and the communities they serve.

I am pleased to recognize Carol Koenigs, along with the entire team at Mapleton Hometown Variety, for their dedication to Mapleton and Monona County. I look forward to their continued success and wish them the very best in the years ahead.●

TRIBUTE TO KATHY NICHOLS

● Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I am honored to recognize Kathy Nichols of Hudson as May's Granite Stater of the Month for her extraordinary volunteer service to people with vision impairments.

After retiring in 2021, Kathy wanted to use her time to give back to her community. She connected with Future In Sight, a nonprofit organization that helps visually impaired Granite Staters live independently by providing transportation, assistive technology, training, and other support services. Kathy quickly signed up to volunteer, in part, to honor her late father who was blind in one eye.

Kathy has become a steadfast volunteer for the organization. She has provided nearly 300 rides for 20 clients, volunteered more than 800 hours of her time, and driven almost 9,000 miles to help members of her community maintain their independence and dignity. Through her service, Kathy has not only helped Granite Staters access appointments and daily necessities, but also reminded them that they are not alone.

Kathy has also built new friendships through her volunteering. After she was paired with Jan Schlecht through Future In Sight, the two developed a close friendship built over countless conversations during rides to appointments, errands, and everyday activities. Through shared conversions and experiences, Kathy and Jan formed a bond which reflects the meaningful relationships that can grow through service and community.

Kathy's volunteerism has shown the profound difference one person can make through kindness, empathy, and commitment to others. She exemplifies the compassion, generosity, and community spirit that make New Hampshire such a special place to call home, which is why I am proud to name her May's Granite Stater of the Month.●

RECOGNIZING THE PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY CRISIS RECEIVING CENTER

● Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the Prince William County Crisis Receiving Center Complex.

The crisis receiving center complex, CRC, and colocated community services outpatient and community-based programs opened in October 2025. The CRC supports adults and youth who are experiencing behavioral health crises and helps to reduce reliance on inpatient psychiatric hospitalization.

Referred to as the model for mental health services, the CRC is operated by Connections Health Solutions under contract with Prince William Community Services. The center utilizes a 23-hour observation model and includes an on-site crisis stabilization unit for individuals—adults and youth—requiring more intensive, short-term care. This collocation of crisis, outpatient, and community-based services in one location offers capabilities which support people when intervention is most vital, including collaboration around connections for ongoing service needs, medical assessments, withdrawal management, and the ability to safely serve individuals under temporary detention orders. It operates 24/7, every day of the year, providing responsive care and interventions.

The CRC was designed with the purpose of helping people in crisis in their most difficult and vulnerable moments and to guide them toward healing; and it is working. According to the CRC, since the complex opened, emergency department wait times in the region have decreased by 66 percent; police officer hours spent on mental health calls decreased by 900 hours after the first month; out of area transport for temporary detention orders decreased from 43 percent to 8 percent; and State hospital admissions from Prince William County have declined significantly.

I am grateful for the vision of the board of county supervisors in Prince William County. I am also grateful for those who work in the CRC and provide timely, compassionate, evidence-based behavioral health support to people in mental health crisis. I applaud their dedication to the health and well-being of their fellow Virginians.●

RECOGNIZING ALPHA DELTA PI SORORITY

● Mrs. MOODY. Mr. President, today I ask the Senate to recognize and celebrate the 175th Anniversary of the Alpha Delta Pi Sorority.

For 175 years, Alpha Delta Pi has been a wellspring of sisterhood, service, character, and knowledge for young women across the country. Growing from a handful of members in 1851 to its more than 290,000 lifetime initiates today, Alpha Delta Pi has shaped generations of women who have gone on to lead in every corner of American life.

Florida holds a particularly special place in the story of Alpha Delta Pi. Today, the organization has 11 active chapters across our State, with 1,775 active members, 1,458 of whom call Florida home. Notably, the Gamma Iota Chapter from the University of