

Financial Protection Bureau, an Agency tasked with defending American consumers from dishonest business practices; it regulated the securities and derivatives markets that brought our Nation to financial ruin; and it increased capital requirements for banks to avoid future defaults. While Barney wished that the rules enshrined in Dodd-Frank went further in protecting Americans, it still made a meaningful difference for millions of families.

Before leaving office, Barney had one more accomplishment he was determined to achieve. On July 7, 2012, Barney married his partner Jim Ready and became the first Member of Congress to be married to a same-sex partner. I am pleased to say that while they were the first, they are no longer the only partnership in this category. While more must be done to end discrimination against the LGBTQ+ community, it is worth recognizing Barney and Jim's contributions to equality in America. Loretta and I would like to offer Jim our deepest condolences for his loss.

Barney refused to allow the prejudice and bigotry of his time to define him. His courage and intelligence were an inspiration to many of his colleagues, and his legacy is still felt in Congress today. He will be missed.

NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH ACT

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise to recognize the 80th anniversary of the National School Lunch Act. Eight decades after President Harry S. Truman signed the legislation into law, we celebrate a program that has nourished generations of American children and helped build a stronger, healthier, and more prosperous nation.

As a former public school board member, I have seen firsthand the powerful connection between nutrition and learning. Children who have access to healthy meals are better prepared to succeed in the classroom, participate in extracurricular activities, and reach their full potential. That simple truth has guided the program.

Arkansas is proud to be part of this success story. Every school day, school meal programs serve hundreds of thousands of Arkansas students, giving them access to the nutrition necessary to learn, grow, and thrive. These meals not only support academic achievement but also promote long-term health and well-being.

We have also worked to build on the success of the National School Lunch Act and extend nutrition support beyond the school year. The Hunger-Free Summer for Kids Act, signed into law in 2022, delivered the most significant modernization of summer feeding programs in more than 60 years. By permanently expanding noncongregate meal options, the law helps ensure that children in rural and underserved communities can continue receiving nutritious meals when school is out of session.

These efforts built on a long, bipartisan tradition of strengthening child

nutrition programs, including support for school breakfast programs, summer meal initiatives, and policies that connect America's farmers, ranchers, and producers with the schools that serve our children every day.

The mission of the National School Lunch Act remains as important as ever. The program continues to nourish children in Arkansas and all across the country and invest in the future of our Nation.

Eighty years of feeding hungry students, supporting families, and creating opportunities for success is a record worth celebrating. I look forward to building on that legacy for generations to come.

TRIBUTE TO BRIGADIER GENERAL WILKINSON

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor an exemplary leader, dedicated public servant, and distinguished soldier: Brigadier General Scott D. Wilkinson. Since 2024, General Wilkinson has served as both military deputy chief of legislative liaison and as chief of legislative liaison. In these roles, he has helped maintain strong relations between military and congressional leaders, ensuring that Congress is well informed of our Armed Forces' critical missions. He brought a wealth of experience to these positions, having previously served as chief of the Senate liaison division.

Throughout his time working with Congress, he has demonstrated a commitment to our national security that has remained constant throughout his more than 30 years of military service. He deployed in support of Operations JOINT ENDEAVOR and JOINT GUARD in Bosnia-Herzegovina; to Operation ATLANTIC RESOLVE in Eastern Europe; and to combat in support of Operations ENDURING FREEDOM, FREEDOM SENTINEL, IRAQI FREEDOM, INHERENT RESOLVE, and YUKON SCEPTER. His awards include the Legion of Merit with three bronze oakleaf clusters, the Bronze Star Medal with four bronze oakleaf clusters, and the Meritorious Service Medal with silver oakleaf cluster, among numerous other decorations.

Tennessee is lucky to call General Wilkinson one of our own. He served for many years at Fort Campbell, ultimately assuming the positions of commander of the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment and deputy commander for Support of the 101st Airborne Division. Prior to his service in the legislative liaison office, he most recently served as commanding general of the U.S. Army Special Operations Aviation Command. Throughout his assignments, his exemplary leadership has set a standard worthy of recognition and emulation by the soldiers he led and mentored.

As General Wilkinson's time at the Office of the Chief Legislative Liaison comes to a close, I extend my deepest thanks to General Wilkinson, his wife

Mindy, and their family for their extraordinary service and sacrifice to our Nation.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO SENIOR AIRMAN LARRY THOMAS

• Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, in addition to accepting the call to serve our Nation's military, many of our veterans have also accepted an even higher calling: being a parent. But what is more is many of them were also influenced to serve by their own parents. That is true for Senior Airman Larry Thomas of Eufaula, AL. As the son of a WWI veteran and the brother of a WWII veteran, when the call to join arms came for Larry, he knew he had to do his part and join the Air Force.

Larry took time off from earning his education at Auburn University to valiantly serve the United States when we needed it the most. He spent 4 years in the early 60s at Eglin Air Force Base in northwest Florida serving our country at the onset of the Vietnam war. During those four years, he supported flight operations and even earned a Presidential Unit Citation for his squadron's help in the first-ever human orbit around the earth in 1962.

But finishing his degree was always in the back of his mind, especially after he met and married his late wife Jean, who was a lifelong educator herself. Larry and Jean married in Walton County, FL, and welcomed home their first two of three sons Channing and Sean while there. After Larry left the Air Force, he kept his promise both to himself and his wife and finished his degree; he graduated from Troy in 1969 exactly 10 years after his high school graduation. The Thomas family finally relocated back to Larry's roots in Eufaula and welcomed their third son Derek in the 70s. And Larry has never left. He went on to work in various roles in textile mills, sales, and more over the next three decades, all the while instilling many of the values he learned from the Air Force in his sons. Whether it be discipline, decision making, keeping your word, working hard, or maintaining order, Larry's time in the uniform was not confined to himself but a shared bond between all the Thomas boys.

To Larry, being a good father, husband, and grandfather is the most important role he has ever had—and his time in the military helped shape him into a father. After retiring in 2011, he has stayed involved in the Eufaula community by serving on the board of directors of the Eufaula Housing Authority and as a part of the vestry at St. James Episcopal Church. He is truly a pillar of his community, but more importantly, of his family.

In June, we celebrate Father's Day. We appreciate the fathers—like Larry—who have helped instill patriotism in the next generation. It is my

honor to recognize Larry Thomas as the June Veteran of the Month.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Ms. Kelly, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

(The message received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 3:02 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 254. An act to amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 to protect the cultural practices and livelihoods of producers of Alaska Native handicrafts and marine mammal ivory products, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY)

At 4:15 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2913. An act to authorize support for Ukraine, and for other purposes.

H.R. 8646. An act making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2027, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, June 8, 2026, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 254. An act to amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 to protect the cultural practices and livelihoods of producers of Alaska Native handicrafts and marine mammal ivory products, 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-3745. A communication from the Senior Advisor, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a discontinuation of serv-

ice in an acting role for a position covered by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998 for the position of Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 3, 2026; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3746. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standards for Business Practices of Interstate Natural Gas Pipelines" ((RIN1902-AG39) (Docket No. RM96-1-044)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 3, 2026; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3747. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation, and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Renewable Energy Production Incentives" (RIN1904-AF76) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 3, 2026; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3748. A communication from the Associate Administrator for Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Implementation Status of the Innovative Water Technology Grant Program October 2025"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3749. A communication from the Division Chief, Office of Regulatory Affairs, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Implementing PATRIOT Act Improvements: Contraband Cigarettes and Smokeless Tobacco" (RIN1140-AA31) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 3, 2026; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-3750. A communication from the Chief of Regulatory Affairs, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revising Machine Gun Definition in Response to Supreme Court Decision" (RIN1140-AA60) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 3, 2026; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-3751. A communication from the Division Chief, Office of Regulatory Affairs, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Changes to National Firearms Act Tax Remittance Provisions" (RIN1140-AA83) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 3, 2026; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-3752. A communication from the Assistant to the Board, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Consumer Leasing (Regulation M)" (RIN7100-AH11) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 3, 2026; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3753. A communication from the Assistant to the Board, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Appraisals for Higher-Priced Mortgage Loans Exemption Threshold" (RIN7100-AH12) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 3, 2026; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3754. A communication from the Assistant to the Board, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pur-

suant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Community Reinvestment Act Regulations Asset-Size Thresholds (Regulation BB)" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 3, 2026; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3755. A communication from the Assistant to the Board, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Truth in Lending (Regulation Z)" (RIN7100-AH10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 3, 2026; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3756. A communication from the Acting Secretary of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2025 through March 31, 2026; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3757. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Legislative Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Reports from the Inspector General and Inspector General for Tax Administration for the period from October 1, 2025, through March 31, 2026; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3758. A communication from the Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency's Semiannual Report of the Office of Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2025 through March 31, 2026; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3759. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a nomination for a position covered by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998 for the position of Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 3, 2026; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3760. 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 October 1, 2025 through March 31, 2026 received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3761. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2025 through March 31, 2026 received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3762. A communication from the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2025 through March 31, 2026 received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. LEE, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute: