

its overhead capabilities to improve the capacity and precision of its collections and make it harder for America's adversaries to hide. In just a few years, the NRO put more than 200 satellites on orbit—most as part of a proliferated architecture that enables users, including warfighters, analysts, policymakers, and international allies to get reliable information when they need it.

Under Dr. Scolese's leadership, the NRO has strengthened partnerships with other government Agencies, industry, academia, and international allies. The Agency has also expanded its relationships with new and existing commercial partners.

Perhaps most importantly, Dr. Scolese's legacy extends beyond technological achievement to the thousands of professionals he has mentored, developed, empowered, and inspired across NASA, the NRO, and the broader space community. He recognized that America's competitive advantage in space depends on its people, leading him to expand recruitment pipelines, strengthen professional development programs, and create opportunities for emerging talent. His commitment to workforce excellence is reflected in the NRO's expanded Cadre program and highly competitive internship initiative, ensuring that the next generation inherits not just advanced capabilities, but the expertise and dedication required to maintain and further expand them.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Dr. Scolese for his valuable contributions to the space community over his decades of service to the Nation. I also thank Chris' family for their critical role in supporting him throughout this time. Dr. Scolese leaves a legacy of leadership across national security and civil space, one that has profoundly shaped the future of space exploration and intelligence capabilities for generations to come. On behalf of myself and all my colleagues on the Senate Intelligence Committee, I congratulate Dr. Scolese on the occasion of his retirement and wish him well in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF LICK OBSERVATORY

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize a jewel of American science and a California landmark: the Lick Observatory on Mount Hamilton. June 7, 2026, marked the 150th anniversary of the Act of Congress that reserved land for the construction of this observatory that has been the site of countless scientific discoveries.

Established through the visionary philanthropy of James Lick, whose 1874 endowment of \$700,000, valued at over \$1 billion today, laid the foundation for what is now the Lick Observatory, Lick Observatory was the world's first permanently staffed mountaintop observatory. When it opened in 1888, it housed the 36-inch Great Refractor, then the largest telescope on Earth, ce-

menting California as an early epicenter of astronomical research.

For 150 years, Lick Observatory has been the site of monumental breakthroughs. In 1892, its researchers achieved the first photographic discovery of a comet and identified a fifth moon of Jupiter. A 1922 Lick Observatory eclipse expedition provided the empirical confirmation of Einstein's general theory of relativity, a moment that fundamentally shifted our understanding of the physical world.

These innovations and discoveries continued into the 20th and now into the 21st century. In the 1990s, Lick Observatory pioneered adaptive optics to pierce through atmospheric distortion and was at the forefront of the search for exoplanets. Its robotic telescopes have monitored over 1,000 supernovae, which provided crucial data revealing the acceleration of the universe's expansion, a discovery honored with the 2011 Nobel Prize in Physics.

Today, operating under the University of California Observatories, Lick Observatory remains a vital keystone for education. It serves nine UC campuses and two national laboratories and partners with California's State universities and community colleges, training the next generation of scientists while inspiring tens of thousands of visitors through its outreach programs.

The legacy of Lick Observatory exemplifies the pioneering American spirit and our enduring commitment to discovery. I ask my colleagues to join me in commemorating this 150th anniversary and honoring the observatory for its extraordinary contributions to humanity's understanding of the cosmos.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO JOABE BARBOSA

• Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize a remarkable achievement by one of my constituents and a beloved member of the Chicago community. Mr. Joabe Barbosa, a graduate student from Brazil pursuing a doctorate in clinical psychology at Roosevelt University, completed a monumental and inspiring undertaking last Sunday: running every street in Chicago. He traveled more than 4,000 miles across all 77 of Chicago's neighborhoods becoming, by all accounts, the first individual to do so. I commend Mr. Barbosa for his incredible accomplishment.

Completing the run is impressive in its own right, but what moved me most was Mr. Barbosa's inspiring message of community, humanity, and joy. On every run, in every video, Mr. Barbosa found local families inviting him in to share a meal, neighborhood children wanting to race, communities welcoming him as one of their own, and Chicagoans sharing their stories of togetherness and love.

In a time when division dominates the airwaves, I thank Mr. Barbosa for showing the best of our shared humanity and reminding Chicagoans of the wisdom and truth captured in the enduring words of Dr. Maya Angelou: "We are more alike, my friends, than we are unlike."

This past weekend, Mr. Barbosa finished his extraordinary run in true Chicago fashion, gathering thousands of his neighbors to run alongside him from Oak Street and Michigan Avenue to Buckingham Fountain to help him spread a joyous message of love and community.

Mr. Barbosa, I thank you with all my heart for telling this story and for showing the world that Chicago truly is the greatest city in the world.●

REMEMBERING JIM SHEE

• Mr. KELLY. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of James Hong Shee, a respected Arizona community leader whose decades of civic engagement, business leadership, and public advocacy helped strengthen communities across our State.

Born into a Chinese and Spanish American family, Jim developed a lifelong appreciation for Arizona's cultural diversity and the importance of building connections among people from different backgrounds. His family operated the Peking Cafe, a longtime Phoenix restaurant that became a gathering place for residents from throughout the community.

Jim dedicated much of his life to expanding economic opportunity and civic participation in Arizona. In 1993, he founded the Arizona Asian Chamber of Commerce, helping establish an organization that has supported Asian-owned businesses and strengthened Arizona's economy for more than three decades. He also founded the Phoenix Asian-Hispanic Alliance, recognizing the importance of collaboration among Arizona's diverse communities.

Throughout his career, Jim worked to ensure that Arizona's Asian American community had a stronger voice in public affairs. A respected leader and advocate, he encouraged greater participation in business, community organizations, and public service. During periods of significant debate over immigration and civil rights issues in Arizona, he spoke out against policies he believed would divide communities and worked to foster constructive dialogue.

Jim's contributions extended beyond the organizations he founded. He worked with civic, business, and community leaders across Arizona to promote greater understanding and cooperation among the State's diverse communities. His commitment to building relationships across communities earned him the respect of leaders and residents throughout Arizona.

Arizona is stronger because of Jim's leadership, advocacy, and commitment to public service. His work expanded opportunities for others and fostered

connections across communities that will endure for generations.

My thoughts are with Jim's wife Marian, his family, friends, and all those mourning his loss. We honor Jim Shee's life of service and celebrate the lasting impact he had on Arizona and its people.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Hanley, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

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

H.R. 2481. An act to require online dating service providers to provide fraud ban notifications to online dating service members, 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-3902. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Semiannual Jackson-Vanik Compliance Report for Certain Independent States" received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3903. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment and Revocation of Organizational Information Regulations" (RIN0910-AJ24) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 16, 2026; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3904. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "National Maternal Mental Health Hotline Fiscal Year 2025"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3905. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Progress Report on the C.W. Bill Young Cell Transplantation Program and National Cord Blood Inventory Program"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3906. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, proposed leg-

islation to amend the Atomic Energy Defense Act to extend the authority to accept, retain, and use external and international contributions to the Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration's Office of Counterterrorism and Counterproliferation; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3907. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, proposed legislation to amend the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 to facilitate the goal to eliminate all cesium-137-based blood irradiators in the United States by December 31, 2027; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3908. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, proposed legislation to amend the Atomic Energy Defense Act to increase the threshold for the Department of Energy's requirement to receive specific authorization for construction design funds to the congressional defense committees from \$5 million to \$10 million; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3909. A communication from the Chief of Staff of the Peace Corps, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of Inspector General's Semiannual Report for the period of 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-3910. A communication from the Chair of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General and the Semiannual Management Report for the period from October 1, 2025 through March 31, 2026; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3911. A communication from the Chief of Staff of the Peace Corps, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of Inspector General's Semiannual Report for the period of October 1, 2025 through March 31, 2026; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3912. 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 "Pydiflumetofen; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 13308-01-OCSP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 16, 2026; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3913. 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 "Sodium Nitrate in Pesticide Formulations; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 13292-01-OCSP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 16, 2026; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3914. A communication from the Deputy Associate Director of Offshore Regulatory Programs, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Oil and Gas and Sulfur Operations in the Outer Continental Shelf Documents Incorporated by Reference" (RIN1014-AA51) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 16, 2026; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3915. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, proposed legislation to amend the American Medical Isotopes Production Act of 2012 to eliminate requirements for annual public workshops and reviews of the Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration's

molybdenum-99 programs by the Nuclear Science Advisory Committee; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3916. A communication from the Chair, Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report to Congress on Medicaid and CHIP; June 2026"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3917. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicaid Program; Strengthening Oversight of Accrediting Organizations (AOs) and Preventing AO Conflicts of Interest, and Related Provisions" (RIN0938-AU88) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 16, 2026; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3918. A communication from the Acting Branch Supervisor of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Finding of Failure to Attain the 2006 24-Hour PM2.5 Standards; California; San Joaquin Valley; Error Correction" (FRL No. 13247-02-R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 16, 2026; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3919. A communication from the Acting Branch Supervisor of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Connecticut; Ozone Ambient Air Quality Standard and Adhesive and Sealants Regulation Revisions" (FRL No. 13029-02-RL) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 16, 2026; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3920. A communication from the Acting Branch Supervisor of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; New York; New York Metropolitan Area Second Ten-Year Limited Maintenance Plan for the 2006 24-Hour PM2.5 Standard" (FRL No. 12788-02-R2) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 16, 2026; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3921. A communication from the Acting Branch Supervisor of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Partial Withdrawals of Findings of Failure to Submit State Implementation Plan (SIP) Revisions to Amend Provisions Applying to Excess Emissions During Periods of Startup, Shutdown, and Malfunction" (FRL No. 12161-04-OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 16, 2026; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3922. A communication from the Acting Branch Supervisor of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "California State Motor Vehicle Pollution Control Standards; Notice of Decision Granting a Waiver of Clean Air Act Preemption for California's 2009 and Subsequent Model Year Greenhouse Gas Emission Standards for New Motor Vehicles" (FRL-No. 8927-2) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 16, 2026; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3923. A communication from the Branch Manager, Branch of Delisting and Foreign Species, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Removal of Northeastern Bulrush