

week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to honor Gronen of Dubuque County, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Founded in 1999 by John and Mary Gronen, Gronen began as a small, family-owned construction company focused on masonry work and historic rehabilitation projects in Dubuque's Washington Neighborhood. As Dubuque natives, John and Mary shared a vision of restoring neglected properties, strengthening neighborhoods, and preserving the city's historic character. What started with a small construction crew and commitment to community-driven revitalization has grown into successful redevelopment and property development firms. Over the past 25 years, Gronen has expanded beyond historic rehabilitation into commercial and residential development, property management, development consulting, and real estate services. Today, the company operates through Gronen Restoration, Gronen Properties, Gronen Development, and DBQ Property Group, employing 70 individuals and serving clients throughout Iowa and the broader Midwest.

For years, Gronen has continued transforming underutilized properties into productive community assets. The company has contributed to numerous redevelopment efforts across Dubuque, including work associated with the Field of Dreams project and the award-winning Steeple Square redevelopment. Through these and other projects, Gronen has helped create housing opportunities and spurred economic growth while preserving Iowa's rich architectural heritage.

Beyond its business operations, Gronen remains deeply engaged in the Dubuque community. The company supports and partners with organizations, including the Dubuque Chamber of Commerce, Greater Dubuque Development, Dubuque Forward, Heritage Works, Smart Growth Development, and the HEART housing program. Through these efforts, Gronen continues to invest in the long-term success of the communities it serves. Gronen's commitment to excellence has earned national and industry recognition, including the Tony Goldman Award, the J. Timothy Anderson Award, and recognition from the International Federation for the Roofing Trade. These honors reflect the company's leadership in historic preservation, community revitalization, and innovative redevelopment.

I am pleased to recognize John and Mary Gronen, along with the entire Gronen team, for their dedication to Dubuque and Iowa. I look forward to their continued success and wish them the very best in the years ahead.●

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-3930. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of firearms, parts, and components controlled under Category I of the U.S. Munitions List to Oman in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 26-023); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3931. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Denmark, Norway, Poland, and the United Kingdom in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 26-026); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3932. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to the United Kingdom in the amount of \$25,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 26-030); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3933. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services for the manufacture of significant military equipment abroad to Italy (Transmittal No. DDTC 25-149); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3934. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of firearms, parts, and components controlled under Category I of the U.S. Munitions List to Ukraine in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 26-045); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3935. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of firearms, parts, and components controlled under Category I of the U.S. Munitions List to the United Kingdom in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 26-042); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3936. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Israel and Italy in the amount of \$25,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 26-034); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3937. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to France, Germany, and Italy in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 26-011); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3938. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, the Army's proposed letter(s) of offer and acceptance to the Government of Brazil for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$330 million (RSAT Case 26-62); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3939. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, the Army's proposed letter(s) of offer and acceptance to the Government of Singapore for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$73 million (RSAT Case 26-67); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3940. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, the Navy's proposed letter(s) of offer and acceptance to the Government of Kuwait for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$235.9 million (RSAT Case 26-56); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. CRUZ, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, without amendment:

S. 1898. A bill to establish a demonstration program for the active remediation of orbital debris and to require the development of uniform orbital debris standard practices in order to support a safe and sustainable orbital environment, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 119-128).

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. CRUZ for the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

*Coast Guard nominations beginning with Capt. Matthew T. Brown and ending with Capt. Torrence B. Wilson, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 18, 2025. (minus 1 nominee: Capt. Blake L. Novak)

*Coast Guard nomination of Rear Adm. (lh) Russell E. Dash, to be Rear Admiral.

*Coast Guard nomination of Joanna K. Hiigel, to be Rear Admiral.

*Coast Guard nominations beginning with Capt. John F. Barresi and ending with Capt. Jacqueline M. Leverich, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 19, 2026.

*Coast Guard nomination of Tabitha A. Schiro, to be Rear Admiral (Lower Half).

*Coast Guard nomination of Dorothy J. Hernaez, to be Rear Admiral (Lower Half).

*Coast Guard nomination of Tevin A. White, to be Lieutenant Commander.

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, for the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation I report favorably the following nomination lists which were printed in the RECORD on the dates indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that these nominations lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

*Coast Guard nominations beginning with Edward J. Abma and ending with Devon D. Zych, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 29, 2026. (minus 1 nominee: Jess M. Gallant)

*Coast Guard nomination of Jon M. Kreisler, to be Captain.

*Coast Guard nominations beginning with Ronzelle L. Green and ending with Tabitha A. Schiro, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 23, 2026.

*Coast Guard nominations beginning with Christopher P. Rabalais and ending with Todd A. Ray, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on June 4, 2026.

By Mr. GRASSLEY for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Don Richard Berthiaume, Jr., of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Department of Justice.

Benjamin M. Flowers, of Ohio, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit.

Matthew A. Schwartz, of New York, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit.

Michael J. Hendershot, of Ohio, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Ohio.

Arthur Roberts Jones, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas.

Jeffrey T. Kuntz, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida.

John George Edward Marck, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas.

Sean Costello, of Alabama, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Alabama for the term of four years.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. KIM (for himself and Mr. ROUNDS):

S. 4823. A bill to amend the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945 to include quantum information science and technology in the areas covered by the Program on China and Transformational Exports; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SHEEHY (for himself, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. BENNET, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, and Mr. CURTIS):

S. 4824. A bill to amend section 5545 of title 5, United States Code, to provide hazard pay for carrying out prescribed burns, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. SANDERS:

S. 4825. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose an excise tax on systemically important AI activity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. WICKER, Mr. KAINE, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 4826. A bill to amend the Rebuilding Economic Prosperity and Opportunity for Ukrainians Act to authorize the use of amounts in the Ukraine Support Fund for purchases by the Government of Ukraine of defense articles and services to respond to and recover from the consequences of the aggression of the Russian Federation; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. PADILLA):

S. 4827. A bill to reauthorize a program for preventing outages and enhancing the resilience of the electric grid, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SCHMITT:

S. 4828. A bill to reaffirm the Declaration of Independence as an Organic Law of the United States; considered and passed.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 4829. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to provide for certain remedies for air transportation passengers with disabilities who are discriminated against, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 4830. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 86-014 Farrington Highway in Waianae, Hawaii, as the "United States Representative Colleen Hanabusa Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. FETTERMAN, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 4831. A bill to prohibit, or require disclosure of, the surveillance, monitoring, and collection of certain worker data by employers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. SMITH (for herself and Mr. ROUNDS):

S. 4832. A bill to amend the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to allow the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into self-determination contracts with Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations to carry out supplemental nutrition assistance programs; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. FETTERMAN):

S. 4833. A bill to prohibit certain uses of automated decision systems by employers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida:

S. 4834. A bill to limit expenditures for foreign student work authorizations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CRAMER (for himself and Mr. KIM):

S. 4835. A bill to enhance the administration of export control licenses under the Export Control Reform Act of 2018, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. RICKETTS:

S. 4836. A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to allow for blended workforces to carry out the supplemental nutrition assistance program under certain conditions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. KAINE, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, and Mr. SCHIFF):

S. 4837. A bill to amend the District of Columbia Home Rule Act to provide for the automatic appointment of judges to the District of Columbia courts without the advice and consent of the Senate, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. DAINES:

S. 4838. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to exempt certain employees engaged in outdoor recreational outfitting or guiding services from minimum wage and maximum hours requirements; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. RICKETTS (for himself and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO):

S. 4839. A bill to require the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Comptroller of the Currency, and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation to study how partnerships between financial technology companies and banking organizations can support new banking organization formation and community bank health, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. KELLY):

S. 4840. A bill to expedite consideration of proposals for additions to, removals from, or other modifications with respect to entities on the Entity List; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SCHIFF (for himself and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH):

S. 4841. A bill to amend the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983 to allow for commodities under the emergency food assistance program to be ordered through the Department of Defense Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. SCHIFF (for himself, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. JUSTICE):

S. 4842. A bill to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to permanently authorize the Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Program, to establish regional food systems hubs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. MURPHY, and Mr. BENNET):

S. 4843. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to promote comprehensive campus mental health and suicide prevention plans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HEINRICH (for himself, Mr. WELCH, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. BENNET, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. GALLEGGO, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 4844. A bill to drive innovation in developing next-generation protection for firefighters by accelerating the development of PFAS-free turnout gear, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. SLOTKIN (for herself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. GALLEGGO, Mr. KELLY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. ROSEN, and Mr. WARNOCK):

S. 4845. A bill to require explicit Congressional approval for troops or armed men at polling places for the only exception in the United States Code, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.