

forward-thinking legislation and programs that balance recreation, scientific research, conservation, and public access to this valuable mountain environment. AMC launched the Maine Woods Initiative in 2003 to conserve land, support sustainable forestry, create new trails, and enhance climate resilience across Maine's 100-Mile Wilderness. It also championed the Highlands Conservation Act in 2004 that protected thousands of acres of forestlands and watersheds in Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. Most recently, AMC promoted the passage of the Great American Outdoors Act and the permanent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. This legislation is helping to tackle a substantial backlog of maintenance projects on Federal public lands.

While promoting and raising public awareness for conservation, AMC never lost sight of one of its earliest objectives: to build and maintain public trails. It remains one of the Northeast's largest trail stewards. AMC crews care for more than 1,800 miles of trails across the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic, including many of New Hampshire's most popular routes. In 2021, I was proud to secure Federal funding used by AMC to restore and realign the Franconia Ridge Loop Trail, one of the Northeast's premier hikes. I was also pleased to see AMC open the Cardigan Mountain All-Persons Trail in 2023, a half-mile trail in Alexandria, NH, that allows people with wheelchairs and other mobility devices to take in a tranquil mountain setting.

The 150th anniversary of the Appalachian Mountain Club is worthy of celebration. It is an opportunity to reflect on a century-and-a-half of advocacy and hard work that has strengthened our connection with each other and the natural world. It is also a chance to look forward and recommit to the longstanding mission of this worthy organization: to foster the protection, enjoyment, and understanding of the outdoors. I ask all Americans to join me in recognizing these enduring contributions and saluting the next generation of AMC staff, volunteers, explorers, and stewards who will carry forth this legacy in the next 150 years and beyond.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO JORY THOMAS

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today I have the honor to recognize Jory Thomas as Montanan of the Month.

Earlier this year, Jory was camping with his family when he heard cries for help coming from the water. The 14-year-old acted swiftly when he saw a man floating down the river, battling the strong currents.

Jory didn't hesitate and sprinted down the riverbank to catch up with the man. He had grown up on a ranch and brought his lariat on the camping

trip and was able to rope the man on his first throw. He pulled the man through chest-deep, swift-moving water, all the way to shore and safety.

Jory demonstrated quick thinking and coolness under pressure, with bravery far beyond his years. His friends and family say that he has always been kind and helpful, and he is a true example of the Montana spirit.

I am thrilled to commend Jory Thomas for his heroic actions. It is my distinct honor to recognize Jory Thomas as Montanan of the Month. •

RECOGNIZING TAYLOR'S MAID-RITE

• 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 Taylor's Maid-Rite of Marshalltown, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

In 1926, Fred Angell created the Maid-Rite sandwich in Muscatine, IA, out of the need for a convenient, affordable meal that could be assembled quickly, customized with a variety of toppings, and still deliver great taste. Following its immediate success, Angell began franchising the concept, expanding first to Newton in 1927 and then to Marshalltown in 1928. Soon after, Cliff and Emma Taylor purchased the Marshalltown franchise, establishing what would become Taylor's Maid-Rite. Alongside the signature sandwiches, the couple introduced homemade pies and cinnamon rolls while sourcing ingredients such as pickles and buns from other local businesses.

Nearly a century later, Taylor's Maid-Rite remains in the Taylor family, now entering its fourth generation. In 1944, Cliff and Emma's son Don Taylor and his wife Polly assumed ownership and continued expanding the business. They built a cooler beneath their home to keep ingredients fresh. In 1958, they opened a new building across the street from the original location, outfitted with modern stainless-steel equipment and two cash registers. After Don's passing in 1973, Polly continued operating the restaurant until her grandson Don Short became the owner in 1985. When Don Short later pursued a different career, his mother Sandy Taylor Short assumed leadership of the family business, where she continues to serve today alongside her children—Don, David, and Sarah—who are all part owners.

Today, Taylor's Maid-Rite continues to grind 100 percent choice beef daily to ensure freshness and quality and serves homemade ice cream made from its original recipe. Nearly a century later, the restaurant remains a family-owned Iowa tradition supported by dedicated employees and loyal customers throughout Marshall County.

Sandy Taylor Short and Taylor's Maid-Rite are active members of the

Marshalltown Area Chamber of Commerce. In recognition of her commitment to the community, Sandy received the Chamber's Women in Business Award in 2023. Taylor's Maid-Rite has also earned numerous accolades, including MSN.com's 2017 "Best Sandwich in Iowa," Midwest Living magazine's 1997 recognition as the "King of Loose Meat Burgers," Business Insider's 2026 designation as Iowa's "Most Iconic Sandwich Shop," and the 2023 Marshalltown Small Business of the Year Award. The restaurant was also featured in Travel + Leisure magazine in 2006, and its signature sandwiches were served at George Motz's Hamburger America during April and May 2025.

Beyond these honors, Taylor's Maid-Rite remains deeply committed to its community. The restaurant famously celebrates Marshalltown High School football victories by providing free malts after every home win. If the team captures a State championship, players are rewarded with free Maid-Rite sandwiches and malts. Taylor's Maid-Rite's continued investment in Marshalltown reflects the same entrepreneurial spirit that inspired Cliff and Emma Taylor nearly 100 years ago.

I am pleased to recognize the Taylor family and the employees of Taylor's Maid-Rite for their dedication to Marshalltown and Marshall County. I look forward to their continued success and wish them the very best in the years ahead. •

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 appropriate committees.

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

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:30 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. 1493. An act to reauthorize and make improvements to Federal programs relating to the prevention, detection, and treatment of traumatic brain injuries, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1703. An act to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to clarify payment rules for manual wheelchairs under part B of the Medicare program.

H.R. 2001. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize a grant

program for addressing dental workforce needs.

H.R. 2069. An act to amend the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 to ensure that other transaction agreements are reported to USAspending.gov, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2715. An act to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to extend the destruction authority of the Secretary of Health and Human Services to articles that present a significant public health concern, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2821. An act to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, to publish a final rule relating to non-clinical testing methods.

H.R. 3029. An act to amend the Research and Development, Competition, and Innovation Act to support nucleic acid screening, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3491. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out a program of research, training, and investigation related to Down syndrome, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3747. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the Project ECHO Grant Program, to establish grants under such program to disseminate knowledge and build capacity to address Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4123. An act to improve Federal technology procurement, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4348. An act to reauthorize the Kay Hagan Tick Act, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4541. An act to reauthorize the Young Women's Breast Health Education and Awareness Requires Learning Young Act of 2009.

H.R. 5160. An act to reauthorize the Stem Cell Therapeutic Research Act of 2005 and for other purposes.

H.R. 5362. An act to name the Department of Veterans Affairs multispecialty clinic in Marietta, Georgia, as the "Colonel Michael H. Boyce Department of Veterans Affairs Multispecialty Clinic".

H.R. 5578. An act to ensure whistleblowers, including contractors, are protected from retaliation when a Federal employee orders a reprisal, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6238. An act to establish the IMPROVE Initiative within the National Institutes of Health.

H.R. 6330. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for lump-sum relocation payments for Federal employees relocated in the interest of the Government, and for other purposes.

H.R. 8790. An act to amend the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to direct research development, demonstration, and commercial application activities in support of next-generation geothermal and closed-loop geothermal systems in various conditions, and for other purposes.

H.R. 8823. An act to amend the Federal Employees' Compensation Act to allow the Secretary of Labor to suspend payments to medical providers who have been convicted of fraud.

The message also announced that pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 2062, and the order of the House of January 3, 2025, the Speaker appoints the following individuals to the Advisory Board for the House of Representatives Child Care Center: Ms. Sonali Jatin Desai of Arlington, Virginia, Mr. Eric Louis Delaney of Washington, D.C., and Ms. Erin M. Kolodjeski of Arlington, Virginia.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 1493. An act to reauthorize and make improvements to Federal programs relating to the prevention, detection, and treatment of traumatic brain injuries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 1703. An act to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to clarify payment rules for manual wheelchairs under part B of the Medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 2001. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize a grant program for addressing dental workforce needs; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 2715. An act to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to extend the destruction authority of the Secretary of Health and Human Services to articles that present a significant public health concern, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 3029. An act to amend the Research and Development, Competition, and Innovation Act to support nucleic acid screening, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 3491. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out a program of research, training, and investigation related to Down syndrome, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 3747. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the Project ECHO Grant Program, to establish grants under such program to disseminate knowledge and build capacity to address Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 4123. An act to improve Federal technology procurement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 5362. An act to name the Department of Veterans Affairs multispecialty clinic in Marietta, Georgia, as the "Colonel Michael H. Boyce Department of Veterans Affairs Multispecialty Clinic"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 6238. An act to establish the IMPROVE Initiative within the National Institutes of Health; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 6330. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for lump-sum relocation payments for Federal employees relocated in the interest of the Government, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 8790. An act to amend the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to direct research, development, demonstration, and commercial application activities in support of next-generation geothermal and closed-loop geothermal systems in various conditions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 8823. An act to amend the Federal Employees' Compensation Act to allow the Secretary of Labor to suspend payments to medical providers who have been convicted of fraud; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

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

H.R. 4348. An act to reauthorize the Kay Hagan Tick Act, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5160. An act to reauthorize the Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Act of 2005, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5578. An act to ensure that whistleblowers, including contractors, are protected from retaliation when a Federal employee orders a reprisal, 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-4105. A communication from the Director of Regulatory Oversight and Management, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Expansion of VA Process for 72-Hour Notification of Emergency Treatment" (RIN2900-AS29) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 13, 2026; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-4106. 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 notification of enhancements or upgrades from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability (RSAT Case 26-76); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4107. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) and (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 to Australia and Japan in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 24-050); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4108. 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 Israel in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 26-029); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4109. 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 Canada, Germany, Norway, and Singapore in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 24-041); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4110. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing Benefits" (29 CFR Part 4044) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 20, 2026; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-4111. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human