

Northern District of Oklahoma for the term of four years.

12. Calendar No. 757: Michael Kavoukjian, of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Norway.

13. Calendar No. 761: Eric Wendt, of California, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Albania.

14. Calendar No. 762: David Brat, of Virginia, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Commonwealth of Australia.

15. Calendar No. 781: Sean Costello, of Alabama, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Alabama for the term of four years.

16. Calendar No. 822: David M. Prouty, of Maryland, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board for the term of five years expiring August 27, 2031. (Reappointment).

17. Calendar No. 823: Brett Matsumoto, of Maryland, to be Commissioner of Labor Statistics, Department of Labor, for a term of four years.

18. Calendar No. 826: Kaveh Farzad, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (International Affairs).

19. Calendar No. 835: Christopher Michael De Bono, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

20. Calendar No. 836: Sharon E. Goodie, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

21. Calendar No. 837: Bradford Pentony Wilson, of New Jersey, to be Archivist of the United States.

22. Calendar No. 842: Michael Christopher DiLorenzo, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

23. Calendar No. 843: Craig Edward Leen, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

24. Calendar No. 844: Christine Michelle Macey, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

25. Calendar No. 845: John Barlow Timmer, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

26. Calendar No. 848: James Andrew Crowell IV, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals for the term of fifteen years.

27. Calendar No. 849: Stuart Gordon Nash, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals for the term of fifteen years.

28. Calendar No. 850: Rudolph Bauer, of South Carolina, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Belize.

29. Calendar No. 853: Barbera Thornhill, of North Carolina, to be Director of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking, with the rank of Ambassador at Large.

30. Calendar No. 854: Christopher Anderson, of Wisconsin, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Cambodia.

31. Calendar No. 855: Stanley Brown, of Virginia, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Equatorial Guinea.

32. Calendar No. 856: Joseph Burkhalter, of Georgia, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Moldova.

33. Calendar No. 857: John Hurley, of California, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, with the rank of Ambassador.

34. Calendar No. 858: Daniel Perez, of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Brazil.

35. Calendar No. 859: Laurence Socha, of Illinois, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of The Gambia.

36. Calendar No. 860: Juan Segura, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Western Hemisphere Affairs).

37. Calendar No. 863: Brendan Hanrahan, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (European and Eurasian Affairs).

38. Calendar No. 864: Donald Blome, of Illinois, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Near Eastern Affairs).

39. Calendar No. 865: Katherine Bowles, of Alabama, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Legislative Affairs).

40. Calendar No. 868: Thomas B. Chapman, of Maryland, to be a Member of the National Transportation Safety Board for a term expiring December 31, 2028. (Reappointment).

41. Calendar No. 869: Karen Jean Hedlund, of New York, to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board for a term expiring December 31, 2030. (Reappointment).

42. Calendar No. 874: Roger Mason, of Virginia, to be Director of the National Reconnaissance Office.

43. Calendar No. 899: Mark Cruz, of Oregon, to be Director of the Indian Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services, for the term of four years.

44. Calendar No. 903: Christopher Nassar, of Oklahoma, to be US Attorney for the Northern District of Oklahoma.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID STACY

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam President, I rise today to recognize the work of David Stacy, former government affairs director at the Human Rights Campaign, HRC. For more than 30 years, Mr. Stacy has been a tireless advocate for the LGBTQ community in Wisconsin and across the United States. His vital work has helped to ensure that LGBTQ people across the country and the world are treated as full and equal citizens and human beings.

Mr. Stacy earned his bachelor of arts from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1990 and served two terms as president of the United Council of University of Wisconsin Students, the statewide student association for the UW system. He later received his master of arts in history, U.S. foreign relations, and civil rights history from New York University in 1991.

In 1994, Mr. Stacy was instrumental in helping me to found Fair Wisconsin. Fair Wisconsin is a statewide advocacy organization with the mission of protecting and advancing the civil rights of LGBTQ individuals through legislative advocacy and electoral involvement. He worked on the 1996 Clinton-Gore campaign and various other State and local races throughout Wisconsin,

as well as on nearly all of my own campaigns for public office during this time.

He began his work in the legislative branch as an intern and then a legislative staffer for representatives in the Wisconsin State Assembly. In 1999, he joined my staff in Washington, DC, as a legislative assistant after I was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. For the 6 years he spent on my staff, he worked on a variety of issues including telecommunications, defense, LGBTQ issues, foreign policy, education, veterans, intellectual property, and homeland security. I valued David's thoughtful counsel and his dedication to his work and passion for the issues he covered.

In November of 2005, Mr. Stacy joined HRC as their senior public policy advocate during a time in which our Nation was hotly debating a proposed amendment to our Constitution that would have defined marriage as a union between one man and one woman. Through more than 20 years of hard, dedicated work, Mr. Stacy has steadily built support and coalitions to advance the cause of equality. Discriminatory bans such as "Don't Ask Don't Tell" have been repealed, ensuring that gay, lesbian, and bisexual Americans who want to serve their country can do so openly and proudly. Later, when Federal marriage equality was established by the courts, he worked alongside me and my staff to pass and codify into law the Respect for Marriage Act, ensuring a critical backstop against an activist court.

He built a model for how sustained work and partnership can bring about meaningful change to the lives of our fellow citizens. He was and is a vital partner in the continued fight for a more, not less, equal country. I am proud to call him a friend and a trusted partner in the fight for equality. I wish him all the best in this next chapter.

RECOGNIZING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VERMONT COUNTRY STORE

Mr. WELCH. Madam President, I rise today to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the Vermont Country Store opening its doors in Weston, VT.

Eight decades after its founding, the Vermont Country Store remains a staple of Vermont's business community and is known to folks across the country for its selection of high-quality products and old-fashioned charm. Throughout the store's history, its owners, the Orton family—who pride themselves as the "Purveyors of the Practical and Hard-to-Find"—have maintained the store's traditions while continuously adapting the store to the changing economy.

The Vermont Country Store started as an aspiration of Vrest Orton's in the early 1900s. Vrest grew up in Calais, VT, where, as a child, he helped run his father's country store. Vrest hatched the idea for the Vermont Country

Store decades later while working at the Pentagon during World War II. Vrest wanted to bring old-fashioned, high-quality products—like those sold in his father's store—to customers far and wide at a time when country stores like his father's were dying around the country as the United States grew and consumption patterns changed. Vrest and his wife Mildred started the Vermont Country Store as a catalog mailing business, headquartered in their kitchen.

Vrest and Mildred were savvy entrepreneurs. Because catalog mailing businesses were innovative at the time, customers were skeptical of sending cash through the mail, so the Ortons included a "Customer's Bill of Rights" in each catalog to make people feel confident about doing business with the Vermont Country Store. The couple mailed their first catalog in 1946 to about 1,000 customers. It was 12 pages long, and its products were drawn in black and white, captioned by Vrest himself.

The Ortons' first catalog was so successful that they were able to open the doors to Vermont Country Store's first retail location in Weston, VT, a year later in 1947, where it remains to this day. The store was cluttered but curated, and customers appreciated its rustic character. In 1984, the Weston store, along with the entire Weston Village Historic District, was rightfully included in the National Register of Historic Places.

By 1967, the Vermont Country Store had grown so much that the Ortons were able to open a second location in nearby Rockingham, allowing them to expand their merchandise, storage, and customer service offerings. Like the Weston store, the new location maintained its hallmark old-fashioned appeal, featuring a restored covered bridge and a gristmill.

Vrest's and Mildred's son Lyman took over running the Vermont Country Store in 1972, at a time when business in America was changing by the minute. Lyman worked to carry on his parents' legacy and improved customer service by expanding phone-ordering capabilities and further expanding the store's offerings. He made exclusive agreements with merchandisers, cementing Vermont Country Store's reputation for having niche and high-quality products.

Now, Lyman's sons Cabot, Eliot, and Gardner, help him run the Vermont Country Store. Together, they have adapted to the digital age while retaining much of the old-fashioned appeal that has made Vermont Country Store so special and successful. Despite having a website, most of the store's business is still driven by catalog sales, which today is 100 pages long and features professionally shot and color-printed photos of handmade fudge, wool rugs, and seersucker pajamas.

The Vermont Country Store is now celebrating its 80th anniversary under a third generation of Ortons and is

thriving. I wish the Orton family nothing but continued success and extend my deep gratitude for what they have done to bring little pieces of Vermont to every corner of the country and the world.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO TIM MASSA

• Mr. HUSTED. Madam President, today I would like to recognize a fellow Ohioan and a fellow Dayton Flyer, Tim Massa, who this September will retire after 37 remarkable years in the human resources profession, the last 16 of them at The Kroger Co., one of Ohio's and America's great companies. Tim joined Kroger in 2010 as vice president of talent development, after 21 years building his craft at Procter & Gamble. Over the following decade and a half, he rose to lead human resources and labor relations, then to serve as Kroger's chief people officer, and ultimately as executive vice president and chief associate experience officer. In Cincinnati, he has served the American Cancer Society, sat on the Cincinnati Zoo's board of trustees, and supported the city's Workforce Innovation Center, always finding time to give back to the community he and his wife Lisa have called home while raising their two daughters. On behalf of the people of Ohio, I want to congratulate Tim Massa on an extraordinary 37-year career, thank him for his dedicated service to Kroger's associates and to the human resources profession, and wish him, Lisa, and their family all the best as they begin this well-earned next chapter.♦

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL MARK L. HAALAND

• Mr. KAINE. Madam President, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize an exemplary Virginian and outstanding citizen, LTC Mark L. Haaland, U.S. Army, Retired. Lieutenant Colonel Haaland is retiring from his position as director of government affairs for the Association of the United States Army, AUSA, where he has been a leading advocate and voice for the total Army—Regular Army, Army National Guard, U.S. Army Reserve, Army civilians, Army families, and veterans—for nearly 8 years. He exemplifies a lifetime of commitment and service to our Nation, his community, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and his family.

As the son of an Army officer and Vietnam war veteran, Lieutenant Colonel Haaland knew from a young age that his life's path would be one of service. After his family moved to Hampton, VA, in 1972, when his father was assigned to the Army Training and Doctrine Command, Mark attended Kecoughtan High School, where he met his future wife Toni Minetti. Following his graduation in 1975, he attended the

U.S. Military Academy at West Point, graduating with the Class of 1979 before beginning a 20-year Army career as an armor officer serving in operational units and on the Army staff at the Pentagon.

Virginia has remained central to Lieutenant Colonel Haaland's life and service. He and Toni, a Hampton native whose father Pat Minetti devoted his own career to public service as a Hampton police officer before retiring as the city's chief of police, were married at Fort Monroe in 1979. During Lieutenant Colonel Haaland's Army service, the family returned to Hampton, while he served at the Army Training and Doctrine Command. Since his assignment to Headquarters, Department of the Army in 1993, Mark and Toni have made Fairfax County their home for more than three decades. Both of their children were born in Virginia, attended Virginia public schools, and graduated from Virginia universities.

After retiring from Active Duty, Lieutenant Colonel Haaland continued to dedicate his career to strengthening our national security. Whether serving on Capitol Hill, in the private sector, or in the nonprofit community, he has earned a reputation for steady leadership, a positive outlook, kindness, and professionalism. These qualities have been a source of strength for the many people he has led, mentored, and taught throughout his career.

At AUSA, headquartered in Arlington, VA, Lieutenant Colonel Haaland led the development and implementation of the association's outreach and advocacy strategy to advance AUSA's priorities before Congress and the executive branch. AUSA's government affairs mission is to educate, inform, and connect in support of the total Army through consistent, principled, and effective advocacy. Lieutenant Colonel Haaland has excelled in every aspect of that mission and has often remarked that it has been one of the greatest honors of his career to advocate for soldiers, Army civilians, veterans, retirees, and military families. He will be missed by all who have had the privilege to work with him.

Lieutenant Colonel Haaland's commitment to service extends well beyond his professional career. He and Toni are active parishioners at Saint Mary of Sorrows Catholic Church in Fairfax, where Mark ministers to homebound seniors and volunteers to help provide meals for those experiencing food insecurity. He also remains deeply engaged in Virginia's military and veterans community through the American Legion and the Military Officers Association of America.

Lieutenant Colonel Haaland has served the Nation he loves with distinction and has been an exemplary leader for soldiers, his coworkers, and his community. On behalf of the U.S. Senate, we thank LTC Mark L. Haaland, his wife Toni, and their entire