

conditions, such as brownout, allowing special operations aviation assets to execute missions in nearly any environmental condition. DVEPS utilizes using three-dimensional (3D) imaging technology. DVEPS produces imagery, 3D conformal symbology, and system alerts to aid pilots in maintaining spatial awareness during and after transition from visual meteorological conditions (VMC) to DVE conditions. DVEPS includes a synthetic vision avionics backbone (SVAB), light detection and ranging (LiDAR) system, removable storage device, infrared camera, power distribution unit, and inertial measurement unit. The Sensitivity of Technology Statement contained in the original notification applies to additional items mentioned.

The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

(vii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: December 31, 2025.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER. Mr. President, on January 5, 2026, I missed roll-call vote No. 1 on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 70, Keith Bass of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense due to a personal matter. Had I been present, I would have voted no.

SUNSET SECTION 230 ACT

Mr. WELCH. Mr. President, this bipartisan bill is a crucial first step to bring Members of Congress, industry, civil society, and families to the table to discuss the future of the internet. It does not aim to end the conversation.

Social media, and the internet broadly, continue to evolve. We need to keep up. Tech platforms must be appropriately incentivized to address the harmful content that has been allowed to proliferate online and influence our children, our communities, and our country as a whole.

Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act of 1996 was passed into law during the early days of the internet, with the intent of incentivizing an environment where platforms could innovate. Section 230 also immunized platforms that engaged in good-faith moderation of content they deem to violate their platform's terms and conditions or community standards.

While section 230 played a central role in the growth of the internet as we know it today, the legislation could not have anticipated the growth and popularity of social media platforms we are now grappling with. For nearly 30 years, social media platforms have enjoyed blanket immunity for the content they host. They have failed to adequately police harmful content on their sites, despite their terms and conditions mandating them to do so.

While most of the conversation surrounding section 230 focuses on Big Tech, it is important to take into consideration small community-based platforms that are also protected by section 230. These platforms do not use algorithmic recommendations, do not

contain live feeds, like buttons, and are not in the business of keeping people online. Rather, they serve as a platform for community engagement. I believe these platforms can serve as a model for content moderation, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to find ways to continue to provide protection for platforms that promote respectful exchange among users.

I have long advocated for free speech and believe that all communities should have the right to express themselves online. But tech platforms have made billions while ignoring violent and exploitative content and disinformation that lives on their platforms. It is time for Congress to act.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD A. SILVER

• Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the remarkable career of Richard A. Silver. Rick has long been recognized as a model of excellence in Connecticut's legal profession and as a national leader and champion for victims of wrongful harm and injustice. His specialties are in medical malpractice, personal injury, and complex civil litigation, but he is truly a tireless advocate of fairness and decency in a wide variety of causes.

Rick was born and raised in Stamford, CT, and became interested in the law as a means to give back to his community and help others. After graduating from the University of Virginia School of Law in 1960, he returned to Connecticut to begin work at the law firm of David Goldstein.

Rick was an immediate success—in fact, winning his very first case despite being given less than a week to prepare. In 1965, he set out on his own, eventually joined in his new firm by partners David Golub in 1975 and Ernie Teitel in 1978. From the outset, he sought to stay small and excel. His model has been so successful that many of his cases are referrals from other lawyers, a testament to the firm's extraordinary record and reputation.

Rick's legal advocacy has changed the landscape of medical malpractice law in Connecticut. His arguments before the Connecticut Supreme Court for the 1976 case of *Katsetos v. Stamford Hospital* were pathbreaking in the assessment of medical expert testimony and cemented a statewide standard of care. His victories in many other cases like *Pisel v. Stamford Hospital* and *Oram v. DeCholnoky* have been precedent setting and historic in imposing accountability and access to legal remedies.

Rick has been widely and repeatedly recognized and honored, and his leadership has been instrumental in raising standards of professional excellence. He has been listed in Best Lawyers in

America under Personal Injury, Medical Malpractice, and Product Liability Litigation since 1987 and has been included in Connecticut Super Lawyers since its inception. He is also on the board of governors for the Connecticut Trial Lawyers Association, where he is co-chairman of the medical malpractice committee, previously served as president of the Connecticut Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates, and is a member of both the American Law Institute and the American Association for Justice.

Equally important, Rick has been an extraordinary mentor and model, generously devoting his skill to developing talent in others and finding opportunities for others to excel. He has helped young lawyers to achieve success and public service.

Rick's lifelong commitment to giving back includes numerous worthy causes and organizations. His generosity is longstanding and legendary. He is a major supporter of the Silver Education Center, named in honor of his family, at the Bartlett Arboretum in Stamford, CT. He is also engaged in supporting higher education as a member of the board of trustees at Quinnipiac University and a member of the advisory boards for both the Quinnipiac University School of Law and Medical School.

Having recently celebrated his 90th birthday and more than six decades of remarkable public service, he shows no sign of slowing down. Now, as ever, the legal profession relies on him—as do countless clients seeking justice—for his dedication, courage, and skill. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and celebrating the remarkable career and work of Richard A. Silver.●

TRIBUTE TO MARY HIGHTOWER

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and recognize the distinguished career of Mary Hightower, chief communications officer for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, upon her retirement after 23 years of exemplary service.

Mary's tenure with the division of agriculture has been marked by a tireless dedication to connecting the public with the vital research and extension work carried out across Arkansas. Her passion and skill for telling the stories of agriculture in the Natural State created a better understanding of the ongoing, critical work in support of our State's producers.

She was an integral force in elevating the organization's messaging efforts, strengthening the visibility and impact of both the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station and the Cooperative Extension Service through innovative storytelling, strategic outreach, and a deep commitment to the land-grant mission.

Her leadership transformed the division of ag's communications team, expanded its media reach, and brought

local agricultural expertise to the national stage. Mary's work has informed the public about scientific advances and community initiatives while also inspiring her colleagues and young communicators to pursue excellence in agricultural communication.

Throughout her career, Mary has been recognized with numerous awards for her outstanding contributions to journalism and communications, and her lasting influence on the industry and the division of agriculture will continue to be felt for years to come.

As she begins this next chapter of her life, I join Mary's family, friends, and colleagues in thanking her for her service to Arkansas and to the agricultural community. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mary Hightower on her remarkable career and in wishing her all the best in her retirement.●

RECOGNIZING CENTERVILLE PRODUCE

- 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 Centerville Produce of Appanoose County, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Founded in 1951 and purchased by the Stober family in 1954, Centerville Produce began as a small, family-run operation selling cream, eggs, and livestock feed. Located in Centerville, IA, the business quickly became a trusted spot for local farmers and residents. In 1995, Ryan Stober, a veteran deeply committed to his community, purchased the business from his grandfather, carrying on the family legacy while expanding the company's reach and offerings. Earlier this year, the business transitioned to longtime employee Mike Spurgeon through a thoughtful succession plan that ensures the Centerville Produce's core mission will continue. Ryan remains actively involved, providing guidance as the business enters its next chapter.

Over the years, Centerville Produce grew from a modest feed store into one of Iowa's premier agricultural retail outlets. Today, the store offers a wide variety of livestock feed, animal nutrition products, pet food, and specialty items like Yeti coolers and Traeger wood pellet grills. With a knowledgeable team of 13 employees, the business has become a go-to destination for farmers, pet owners, and outdoor enthusiasts alike, blending tradition with modern products and services. The company has continually adapted to changing customer needs by expanding inventory, introducing new product lines, and maintaining the personal service customers have relied on for generations.

Under Ryan Stober's leadership, Centerville Produce became deeply

woven into the fabric of the local community. The business is an active member of the chamber of commerce and proudly supports local county fairs, 4-H, Future Farmers of America, and high schools. Centerville Produce also sponsors Little League baseball, softball teams, and numerous youth programs. Ryan himself has served as president of the Appanoose Economic Development Corp., vice president of the Appanoose Community Railroad, and held board positions with the Rathbun Area Chamber of Commerce, Centerville Main Street, and the Centerville Municipal Waterworks Board. His longstanding commitment to civic involvement earned him the 2017 Daily Iowegian Citizen of the Year Award.

From its humble beginnings selling cream and eggs to becoming a comprehensive agriculture retail and pet supply hub, Centerville Produce exemplifies growth rooted in family values, community commitment, and a passion for serving customers. Its story is one of resilience, innovation, and dedication, showing how a locally owned business can make a lasting impact while honoring its heritage. Today, Centerville Produce stands as a model of how tradition, community engagement, and thoughtful growth can create a thriving, enduring business.

It is my honor to recognize Ryan Stober, Mike Spurgeon, and the entire Centerville Produce team for their outstanding work and dedication to their community. I look forward to their continued success and wish them the very best in the years ahead.●

TRIBUTE TO PATRICK DOWNING

- Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, the military will take you all over the world, but Sweet Home Alabama has a way of bringing people back. That is true for Mobile native Colonel Patrick Downing, who found his way back to the Bay after 36 years of military service.

The son of a World War II marine, Pat enlisted in the Army at just 17 years old. In 1961, he signed up to be a part of the Special Forces unit, where he would serve for the next three decades—including two tours in Vietnam. Before he left, Pat married his high school sweetheart, Patricia, in a chapel at Fort Bragg. Upon arriving, Pat and his team were met with a mortar attack and told their unit had a bounty on their heads just for being in the country. But Pat wasn't deterred from his mission.

He returned home briefly, where he and Patricia welcomed their first child Patti. Pat also completed Officer Candidate School during his time in between deployments at just 24 years old. Pat continued to show a determination for finishing what he started, earning his high school diploma and going on to complete a bachelor's degree and a master's degree. His final military role was as an adviser to the Army Reserves in Birmingham, AL.

After retiring in 1996, Pat and Patricia knew that it was time to bring their family back to the Yellowhammer State for good after 19 moves over the years. He then used his passion for education to give back to his hometown, working at the University of South Alabama for more than 20 years until his retirement in 2015. He directed one of South's satellite campuses for 15 years and wrapped up his time directing transportation for the main campus and the Springhill campus.

Pat hasn't slowed down in retirement. Now, he serves Alabama's veterans in a number of roles—including with American Legion Post 88, Veterans of Foreign Wars, South Alabama Council, USS *Alabama* Battleship Commission, and the Alabama State Board of Veterans Affairs. Of all the many ways Pat has served those around him, two experiences stick out the most: bringing over 1,000 World War II vets to DC through Honor Flight South Alabama and working to establish a State cemetery for veterans in Spanish Fort, AL.

He and his wife are proud grandparents to seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. After traveling far and wide to protect our freedoms, I am glad Pat planted his roots down in Mobile.

It is my honor to recognize him as the January Veteran of the Month.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 4:52 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that pursuant to section 1238(b)(3) of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (22 U.S.C. 7002), as amended, and the order of the House of January 3, 2025, the Speaker appoints the following individual on the part of the House of Representatives to the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission for a term expiring on December 31, 2027: Mr. Taylor Budowich of Washington, DC.

The message further announced that pursuant to section 1238(b)(3) of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (22 U.S.C. 7002), as amended, the Minority Leader appoints the following individual to the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission: Mr. Leland Miller of Alexandria, Virginia.

As previously agreed, because of the change in Congress and the presumed statutory intent of the Commission, I am appointing Mr. Miller on behalf of the Speaker.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 1238(b)(3) of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (22 U.S.C. 7002), as amended, the Minority