

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

Leader appoints the following individual to the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission: Mr. Jonathan Nicholas Stivers of Falls Church, Virginia.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, January 6, 2026, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 222. An act to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to allow schools that participate in the school lunch program to serve whole milk, 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-2352. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 3(d)(3) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the re-export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to the Ukraine in the amount of \$14,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 25-114) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2353. 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 Luxembourg in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 25-067) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2354. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13405 of June 16, 2006, with respect to Belarus; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2355. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to serious human rights abuse and corruption that was declared in Executive Order 13818 of December 20, 2017; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2356. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13303 of May 22, 2003, with respect to the stabilization of Iraq; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2357. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 14059 of December 15, 2021, with respect to global illicit drug trafficking; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2358. A communication from the Official performing Duties of the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a

violation of the Antideficiency Act that involved fiscal years 2019 through 2022 Operation and Maintenance and Defense Acquisition Workforce Development Fund appropriations; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-2359. A communication from the Senior Vice President and Chief of Staff, Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a transaction involving exports to Türkiye; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2360. A communication from the Acting President and Chairman, Board of Directors of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a transaction involving financing to support U.S. supply chain resiliency projects; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2361. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "2024 Trends in the Quality of U.S. Healthcare Services"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2362. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Expiration of Interim Final Rule: Control of Communicable Diseases; Foreign Quarantine" (RIN0920-AA75) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 18, 2025; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2363. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26-201, "Uniform Special Deposits Act of 2025"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2364. A communication from the Director of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2025 through September 30, 2025; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2365. A communication from the Acting Chief, Ethics Transparency and Integrity Branch, Office of Government Ethics, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to discontinuation of service in an acting role for a position covered by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998 for the position of Director, Office of Government Ethics, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 18, 2025; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2366. A communication from the Chairman of the Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Inspector General's Semiannual Report for the six-month period from April 1, 2025 through September 30, 2025; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2367. A communication from the Chairwoman, Board of Governors, United States Postal Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Postal Services' Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2025 through September 30, 2025; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2368. A communication from the Chairman of the United States International Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2025; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2369. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Appraisals for Higher-Priced Mortgage Loans Exemption Threshold" (RIN7100-AH12) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 18, 2025; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2370. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26-202, "Uniform Commercial Code Financing Statement Forms Amendment Act of 2025"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2371. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26-203, "Uniform College Athlete Name, Image, or Likeness Amendment Act of 2025"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2372. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26-205, "Malcolm X Extension of Disposition Authority and Term Sheet Amendment Act of 2025"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2373. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26-200, "Veteran Spouse Homestead Deduction Amendment Act of 2025"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2374. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26-206, "Closing of a Public Alley in Square 3524, S.O. 23-06402, Act of 2025"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2375. A communication from the Assistant Director, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulatory Capital Rule: Modifications to the Enhanced Supplementary Leverage Ratio Standards for U.S. Global Systemically Important Bank Holding Companies and Their Subsidiary Depository Institutions; Total Loss-Absorbing Capacity and Long-Term Debt Requirements for U.S. Global Systemically Important Bank Holding Companies" (RIN1557-AF31) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 18, 2025; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2376. A communication from the Senior Counsel, Legal Division, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Truth in Lending (Regulation Z)" (RIN7100-AH10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 18, 2025; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2377. A communication from the Senior Counsel, Legal Division, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Truth in Lending (Regulation M)" (RIN7100-AH11) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 18, 2025; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2378. A communication from the Senior Counsel, Legal Division, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Appraisals for Higher-Priced Mortgage Loans Exemption Threshold" (RIN7100-AH12) received in the Office of the President of the