

week, it is my privilege to honor Dayton Meat Products of Poweshiek County, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Established in 1959 by Lawrence Dayton, Dayton Meat Products, originally known as the Malcom Locker, is one of the most respected and well-known meat processors in Iowa. From the beginning, the business embodied the values of a true family operation. Over the past 67 years, Lawrence's wife Edith and their five children all contributed to the success of the business. In 1994, the family moved to South Malcolm and built their current facility, which includes a slaughterhouse, garage, smokehouse, cutting rooms, and retail store. This custom meat-processing business now includes jerky, deer, sandwiches, homemade pies, and catering services. Today, they process more than 700 hogs and 45,000 pounds of game meat each year. Customers are welcome to bring in their own cattle, hogs, or deer and purchase through Dayton, working closely with the team to create custom cuts and smoked products.

In 1999, Lawrence retired and passed the business on to his sons Bill and David and son-in-law Mark Lang. Today, Bill Dayton and his two sons Josh and Jake continue to own and operate the business, proudly upholding Lawrence's legacy. Under their leadership and with a dedicated team of 15 employees, including two American Association of Meat Processors master meat crafters, Dayton Meat Products has earned widespread recognition for its award-winning dried beef, bacon, ham, and jerky.

Beyond their traditional services, Dayton Meat Products is known for its creativity and innovation. They are particularly recognized for their cheddar and cranberry summer sausage and their gummy bear bratwurst, which all quickly became best sellers. The business has received numerous awards at the American Association of Meat Processors—AAMP—convention, the Poweshiek County Fair, and the Iowa State Fair. Most recently, they were named the Grand Champion for semi-boneless ham at the AAMP Convention's American Cured Meat Championship. Bill Dayton is also well known throughout Malcom for sharing his knowledge with new entrepreneurs. To recognize his contributions, Bill was honored in 2012 with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Iowa Meat Processors Association. In 2015, he was inducted into the Cured Meats Hall of Fame under the American Association of Meat Processors.

Dayton Meat Products values the importance of giving back to the community. They regularly donate to the local food bank, recognizing their products as an important commodity for those in need. They also support the local fire department and were recognized by the Grinnell Lions Club with the Ag Appreciation Day Agri-Business of the Year Award.

It is my honor to recognize Dayton Meat Products for their outstanding

contributions and presence in the Malcolm community. I look forward to their continued success and wish them the very best in the years to come.●

RECOGNIZING HEART 'N HOME

● 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 Heart 'n Home of Pocahontas County, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Founded in 1992, Heart 'n Home began with Julie Wurr's simple desire to create something beautiful that brought joy, comfort, and inspiration to others. After participating in 4 years of craft shows, this hobby soon grew into something much larger. Thanks to the enthusiastic encouragement of customers and family, Julie and her husband Bill transformed their garage into a small storefront, marking the official start of Heart 'n Home's journey as a local floral and gift destination.

In the early 2000s, Heart 'n Home made a pivotal move to downtown Laurens, IA, where the shop continues to thrive today. The small business has evolved over the years and grown to include entertaining and home decor, silk and dried arrangements, gourmet foods, and an ever-changing selection of unique gifts. Heart 'n Home's reputation bloomed as both a floral studio and a welcoming boutique filled with creativity and warmth.

Most recently, Heart 'n Home brought fresh floral arrangements into its lineup, further elevating the services offered. Julie specializes in couture arrangements, which are carefully crafted pieces that reflect the individual personality and story of the person receiving them.

Over 33 years, Heart 'n Home has expanded from a garage-based floral shop into a distinctive retail experience defined by artistic expression, innovation, and personal service. With a dedicated team of five employees, the store continues to adapt to changing trends and customer needs while remaining deeply rooted in the values on which it was built.

Heart 'n Home is also an active part of the local community, participating in organizations such as Pocahontas County Economic Development and Iowa State University Extension. In 2018, Heart 'n Home was named the Pocahontas County Business of the Year. Julie is also the president of the Laurens Public Library Foundation and is a part of the Laurens Chamber of Commerce.

Julie Wurr's vision has shaped Heart 'n Home into a thriving small business that not only delivers flowers and gifts, but has created meaningful, memorable experiences. Today, Heart 'n Home stands as a shining example of how creativity, dedication, and heartfelt service can transform a small,

homegrown idea into a longstanding community treasure.

It is my honor to recognize Julie Wurr and the entire Heart 'n Home 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 DR. PETER B. MOYLE

● Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate the outstanding contributions of Dr. Peter B. Moyle, a distinguished professor emeritus at the University of California, Davis. Dr. Moyle has devoted his life to understanding and conserving the unique freshwater fishes of California and the Western United States. The basis for just about everything we do to manage freshwater fishes in California can be traced back to the research and writings of Dr. Moyle and his many students.

For over five decades, Dr. Peter Moyle has been wading through the rivers, streams, floodplains, and estuaries of California. His work documenting the habitats and lives of the more than 130 species of fish that inhabit our waters—chronicled in over 250 publications and at least a dozen books—is the foundation of our understanding of California's freshwater fishes. No one has done more to teach us about this unique natural resource.

Dr. Moyle has also played a central role in not only understanding but conserving and managing California's fishes, particularly iconic species like salmon and steelhead. His work has shown us which fish are in trouble and which are prospering. And his keen understanding continues guiding efforts to restore habitat and adapt to the changing climate.

Beyond the fish themselves, Dr. Moyle's research has also played a prominent role in the ways we manage our rivers and estuaries, particularly for Federal Agencies working in California. The Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Marine Fisheries Service all rely upon Dr. Moyle's research to guide their actions in protecting native fishes and investing in habitat restorations.

But the measure of Dr. Moyle's contribution goes far beyond his outstanding research. In fact, it can be found in our most precious resource: his students, the critical human capital that California and much of the West relies on to manage freshwater fish. In his time at UC Davis, Dr. Moyle supervised more than 60 graduate students, most of whom are now pursuing successful careers of their own in academia, State and Federal agencies, and private firms. Indeed, at any gathering of experts on fishes, you will inevitably note Dr. Peter Moyle's "offspring" everywhere.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Dr. Peter Moyle for being

California's most consequential fish biologist, revealing to us all the wonder of the fishes that call California home, the value of conserving them, and helping us find a way forward in ensuring that they flourish for generations to come.●

RECOGNIZING THE STOCKTON SYMPHONY'S CENTENNIAL

● Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the centennial of the Stockton Symphony in Stockton, CA.

Founded in 1926 by Italian immigrant Manlio Silva, the Stockton Symphony is the third-oldest continuously operating professional orchestra in the State of California. In May of 1926, Mr. Silva assembled 20 local musicians to perform for the Stockton Musical Club, laying the foundation for a cherished and enduring cultural institution. Mr. Silva initially supported the symphony out of his own pocket, guided by a deep belief in the potential of music to enrich community life.

Over the past century, the symphony has grown from a 20-member community ensemble into a professional orchestra of metropolitan stature, drawing musical talent from across the globe. They have elevated artistic excellence in the region, expanded innovative educational programs, and achieved national recognition through high-profile composer residencies and critically acclaimed world premieres.

Throughout its history, the symphony has remained dedicated to Mr. Silva's mission of inspiring joy and building community through the power of music. Today's performers carry on his tradition of excellence as they electrify audiences and shape a vibrant and inclusive culture in the Central Valley.

As the Stockton Symphony celebrates its 100th anniversary, I commend the musicians, staff, and community whose commitment ensure its enduring success. I ask all Members to join me in honoring the centennial of the Stockton Symphony on July 1, 2026, and in recognizing a century of artistic excellence, community service, and cultural enrichment in California's Central Valley.●

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE UNION DELIVERED TO A JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS ON FEBRUARY 24, 2026—PM 52

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States which was ordered to lie on the table:

To the Congress of the United States:

Speaker Johnson, Vice President Vance, First Lady of the United States, Second Lady of the United States, members of Congress, and my fellow Americans:

Our Nation is back—bigger, better, richer, and stronger than ever before.

Less than 5 months from now, our country will celebrate an epic milestone in American History—the 250th Anniversary of our glorious American Independence. This July 4th, we will mark two and a half centuries of liberty and triumph, progress and freedom in the most incredible and exceptional nation ever to exist on the face of this earth—and you've seen nothing yet, because we are entering the Golden Age of America.

When I last spoke in this chamber 12 months ago, I had just inherited a nation in crisis—with a stagnant economy, inflation at record levels, a wide-open border, horrendous recruitment for military and police, rampant crime at home, and wars and chaos all over the world. But tonight, after just one year, I can say with dignity and pride that we have achieved a transformation like no one has ever seen before, and a turnaround for the ages. We will never go back to where we were just a short time ago!

Today, our border is secure, our spirit is restored, inflation is plummeting, incomes are rising fast, the economy is roaring, our enemies are scared, our military and police are stacked, and America is respected again, perhaps like never before.

After 4 years in which millions and millions of illegal aliens poured across our borders totally unvetted and unchecked, we now have the strongest and most secure border in American history. In the past 9 months, zero illegal aliens have been admitted to the United States—but we will always allow people to come in legally, people that will love our country and will work hard to maintain it. The flow of deadly fentanyl across our border is down by a record 56%. And last year, the murder rate saw its single largest decline in recorded history—the lowest number in over 125 years, in fact, substantially before my father Fred was born.

The Biden administration and its allies in Congress gave us the worst inflation in the history of our country. But in 12 months, my administration has driven core inflation down to the lowest level in more than 5 years—and in the last 3 months of 2025, it was down to 1.7%.

Gasoline, which reached a peak of over \$6 a gallon in some states under my predecessor, is now below \$2.30 a gallon in many states, in some places \$1.99—and when I visited Iowa a few weeks ago, I even saw \$1.85 a gallon. Mortgage rates are the lowest in 4 years and falling fast—and the annual cost of the typical new mortgage is down almost \$5,000 just since I took office.

Low interest rates will solve the Biden-created housing problem—while at the same time protecting the values of those people, who already own a house, that are now rich for the first time in their lives. And I'm going to keep it that way.

The stock market has set 53 all-time record highs since the election—boosting pensions, 401ks, and retirement accounts for millions and millions of Americans.

In 4 long years, the last administration got less than \$1 trillion of new investment in the United States. In 12 months, I secured commitments for more than \$18 trillion pouring in from all over the globe. Think of it, less than \$1 trillion for 4 years, versus \$18 trillion for one year. A short time ago, we were a dead country—now, we are the hottest country anywhere in the world.

As thousands of new businesses are forming, and factories, plants, and laboratories are being built, we have added 70,000 new construction jobs in just a short period. American Oil production is up by more than 600,000 barrels a day—and we just received, from our new friend and partner, Venezuela, more than 80 million barrels of oil. American natural gas production is at an all-time high, because I kept my promise to drill, baby, drill. More Americans are working today than at any time in the history of our country. And 100% of all jobs created under my administration have been in the private sector. We ended D.E.I. in America. We cut a record number of job-killing regulations—and in one year, we have lifted 2.4 million Americans off food stamps.

For all these reasons, I say tonight—Members of Congress, The State of Our Union is strong.

Our country is winning again—in fact, we're winning so much, that we don't know what to do about it. People are asking me, "Please, please, please, Mr. President, we're winning too much, we can't take it anymore. We're not used to winning in our country—until you came along, we were always losing." And I say, "No, no, you're going to win again, and you're going to win big—there's no such thing as too much winning." And to prove that point, here with us tonight is a group of winners who just made our entire nation incredibly proud—the Men's Gold Medal Olympic Hockey Team. Come on in! They beat a fantastic Canadian team in overtime—as did the American women, who will soon be coming to the White House. Congratulations, Team USA! I have never seen a goal tender play as well as goalie Connor Hellebuyck. And I think the members of this great hockey squad will be happy to hear—and I'll only do this if they agree by a vote count—that I will soon be presenting him our highest civilian honor, which we have given to many athletes over the years, the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Thank you all!

I am also pleased to say that the next time the Olympic torch is lit, it will be here in America for the 2028 Olympics in Los Angeles. And this year, we are hosting the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

But the biggest of all is America 250. This will be a year to celebrate our