

## TRIBUTE TO MARK SIEGEL

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, Mark Siegel was born in 1946 in Brooklyn, NY, and has spent more than five decades as one of the Democratic Party's most versatile and enduring figures, serving at various points as a strategist, speechwriter, academic, and international democracy advocate.

Siegel attended public schools in Brooklyn before earning his undergraduate degree from Brooklyn College in 1967. He went on to Northwestern University, where he completed both a master's degree in 1968 and a Ph.D. in political science in 1972, focusing on elections, party reform, and the Presidential nominating process.

His entry into national politics came during the reform-minded era of the late 1960s and early 1970s, when the Democratic Party was undergoing profound organizational and ideological change. Siegel served as a legislative assistant to Senator Hubert Humphrey from 1971 to 1972 and was chief strategist for Humphrey's 1972 Presidential campaign. He later served as political director of the 1976 Democratic National Convention and coordinated the "Draft Ted Kennedy" movement in 1980, roles that placed him squarely at the center of the party's most consequential internal battles of the era. He also served as an elected at-large member of the Democratic National Committee, DNC, for more than a decade and participated in the commissions that shaped Presidential nominating rules, leaving a durable mark on the party's institutional structure. At one point, he served as executive director of the DNC itself.

As a speechwriter and political adviser, Siegel worked with some of the most prominent figures in American public life, drafting speeches for President Jimmy Carter, Vice Presidents Walter Mondale and Al Gore, Senator Ted Kennedy, and Senator Bill Bradley.

During his tenure in the Carter White House, Siegel served as the administration's liaison to the American Jewish community. Remarkably, he was the first to propose a national memorial to the Holocaust, an idea that led directly to the creation of the President's Commission on the Holocaust and, 15 years later, the Holocaust Memorial Museum on the National Mall in Washington. Siegel continues to serve on the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council, which acts as the governing board of trustees of the museum.

The combination of Siegel's working-class roots, his faith, and his unrelenting commitment to human dignity meant that his focus was never constrained by the geographic borders of our country. Indeed, his reach extended far beyond them, as he served as a trusted confidant and writer for leading international figures, including Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan.

Siegel's international profile also includes his long association with the

National Democratic Institute, NDI, the nonprofit organization that promotes democratic governance around the world. He served on the NDI board for 15 years and chaired programs focused on political party development and election monitoring, with particular emphasis on Asia.

Throughout his career, Siegel maintained a parallel life in academia. He taught political science and political management at American University, George Washington University, Loyola University Chicago, and New York University, bringing his practical experience in campaigns and party organization directly into the classroom.

A committed advocate for civil liberties and electoral reform, Siegel has remained an active commentator and strategist within Democratic circles across decades of American political life. He contributed public analysis during major political moments, including the contested 2000 Presidential election recount.

Across roles spanning government, academia, and international affairs, Mark Siegel represents a rare continuity of engagement with Democratic politics from the reform era through the modern day. He has dedicated his life to the promise of America, striving every day to make it kinder, fairer, and stronger. Our Nation is better for the life and service of Mark Siegel—a proud resident of Delaware—and we are grateful for him.

## TRIBUTE TO TEAM USA'S JAKE SANDERSON, KONNOR RALPH, AND KATIE VERDERBER

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today I have the honor to recognize Jake Sanderson, Konnor Ralph, and Katie Verderber as Montanans of the Month.

These three Montanans representing the United States at the 2026 Winter Olympics and Paralympics have shown exemplary dedication to their sports. They are some of the best that the Treasure State has to offer.

Jake Sanderson, a native of Whitefish, MT, is a defenseman on Team USA's men's hockey team. Growing up, Sanderson competed for the Glacier Avalanche of the Glacier Hockey Association alongside his brothers. In 2026, he was named to Team USA's roster for the 2026 Winter Olympics. Sanderson helped Team USA go 6-0 at the Milan Cortina games and win its first Olympic gold medal since the "Miracle on Ice" in 1980.

Konnor Ralph is an American freestyle skier from Helena, MT. Ralph represented the United States at the 2026 Winter Olympics in the slopestyle and big air events. Ralph placed ninth overall in slopestyle and fifth overall in men's big air.

Katie Verderber is scheduled to compete at the 2026 Paralympic Winter Games for Team USA's wheelchair curling squad. Raised in Valier, MT, Verderber received her undergraduate degree from the University of Montana.

It is my distinct honor to recognize Jake Sanderson, Konnor Ralph, and Katie Verderber as Montanans of the Month for their hard work, dedication to their country and teams, and their representation of Montana on the international playing field.

## RECOGNIZING VERMONT OLYMPIANS AND MEDAL WINNERS

Mr. WELCH. Mr. President, I join with Vermonters in celebrating the exceptional Vermont athletes who represented the United States at the 2026 Winter Olympic Games. Our State's athletes competed with great distinction, earning seven medals. The State of Vermont has a proud tradition of producing world-class athletes, and the 2026 Games were a powerful testament to that legacy.

Athletes with Vermont roots and connections won seven medals at the games, representing more than 20 percent of all medals earned by Team USA. Vermont's contribution to American Olympic success this year was historic by any measure.

Across alpine skiing, cross-country skiing, and freestyle disciplines, Vermont athletes competed at the highest level and delivered performances that will be remembered for years to come. These achievements did not happen overnight. They are the result of years of rigorous training, personal sacrifice, and an unrelenting commitment to excellence—supported by the world-class coaches and ski schools and training programs that Vermont has long been proud to call its own.

I congratulate Ben Ogden, Ryan Cochran-Siegle, Mac Forehand, Jessie Diggins, Paula Moltzan, and Mikaela Shiffrin for medaling. I also applaud Julia Kern, Jess Perlmutter, Jack Young, Sean Doherty, Margie Freed, Maxime Germain, Olivia Giaccio, Deedra Irwin, Lauren Jortberg, and Nina O'Brien for competing and making Vermont proud.

The Winter Games are a reminder of why our winter sports and outdoor recreation communities are so vital to the identity and economy of our State. Vermont's ski areas, trails, and training programs are not only excellent athletic institutions, but they are also the reason generations of young Vermonters have grown up with a love of the outdoors.

We are deeply proud of all our Vermont athletes have achieved, and we wish them continued success as they pursue the next chapters of their athletic careers and beyond. Their accomplishments will inspire young skiers and outdoor enthusiasts across Vermont for generations to come and serve as a lasting reminder of what is possible when talent and the spirit of the Green Mountains come together on the world's greatest stage.

## ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

## RECOGNIZING STILLWATER AND EAST BOULDER PLATINUM AND PALLADIUM MINES

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today I have the honor to recognize the Stillwater and East Boulder Platinum Palladium Mines in Stillwater and Sweet Grass Counties, MT.

Montana's mining industry is critically important to not only our State, but our country. Hard rock mining provides over 18,000 good-paying jobs in Montana and adds nearly \$430 million to the State's economy. Additionally, Montana is home to the only primary producer of platinum and palladium in America: the Stillwater and East Boulder Mines.

Platinum-group metals, including palladium, are critically important metals for automobile production, medical and electronic devices, as well as the defense industry, and are primarily mined in Montana, Russia, and South Africa. Several years ago, Russian palladium dumping drove down the price and caused the mines to lay off nearly 700 employees. Not only was this devastating to the Montana communities, it forced America to become more reliant on foreign imported palladium.

However, the mine and the hard-working Montanans persisted. Each day, miners and refiners came to work and continued to produce this important metal for the country. Montanans are united to supporting our miners and combating illegal Russian dumping. Thankfully, due to the hard work of many folks, we have seen actions to turn the tide and support the longevity of the mines.

Today, we recognize the Stillwater and East Boulder Mines, their employees, and all miners in the State for their perseverance and hard work. Mining is a critical industry and miners work long days in dangerous conditions. On behalf of Montana, we thank you for your contributions to our State.●

## TRIBUTE TO DENNIS WASHINGTON

• Mr. SHEEHY. Mr. President, Montana's proud mining history has defined our State and powered America's growth and industrial strength. The copper mined in Butte electrified the Nation, fueled American industry, and helped our country win two World Wars. But by the 1980s, major mining operations had gone dormant, and the future of large-scale mining in Butte was uncertain.

Dennis Washington made the decision to restart operations at the dormant Continental Pit. What began as a potential salvage effort became a long-term commitment: investing in Montana miners, modernizing equipment, and restoring confidence in one of the world's most historic mining districts.

On July 16, 1986, the first blast at the reopened Continental Pit marked the

return of large-scale mining in Butte under the leadership of his Montana-based, American-owned company.

Since resuming operations, the mine has produced more than 2.5 billion pounds of copper and over 300 million pounds of molybdenum, minerals essential to American infrastructure, advanced manufacturing, energy systems, and national defense. Today, Montana miners and engineers working in Butte continue to supply the materials that strengthen our Nation and support good-paying jobs here at home.

As we honor the industry that helped build Montana and America, we recognize that responsible mining remains central to our State's future. Because of leaders like Dennis Washington—and the hard-working men and women of Butte—Montana mining continues to power opportunity for the next generation.

Montana mining helped build America, and it continues to build Montana's future.●

## MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:21 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, 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. 4626. An act to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to prohibit the Secretary of Energy from prescribing any new or amended energy conservation standard for a product that is not technologically feasible and economically justified, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4758. An act to repeal provisions of Public Law 117-169 relating to taxpayer subsidies for home electrification, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6329. An act to ensure that Federal agencies rely on the best reasonably available scientific, technical, demographic, economic, and statistical information and evidence to develop, issue or inform the public of the nature and bases of Federal agency rules and guidance, and for other purposes.

## MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 4626. An act to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to prohibit the Secretary of Energy from prescribing any new or amended energy conservation standard for a product that is not technologically feasible and economically justified, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 4758. An act to repeal provisions of Public Law 117-169 relating to taxpayer subsidies for home electrification, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 6329. An act to ensure that Federal agencies rely on the best reasonably available scientific, technical, demographic, economic, and statistical information and evidence to develop, issue or inform the public of the nature and bases of Federal agency rules and guidance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

## 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-2790. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communication Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Television Broadcast Stations, Hutchinson, Kansas" ((DA 26-120) (MB Docket No. 25-287)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 17, 2026; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2791. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of the Tryon Foothills Viticultural Area" (RIN1513-AD04) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 20, 2026; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2792. A communication from the General Counsel, National Archives and Records Administration, 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 Archivist of the United States, National Archives and Records Administration, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 11, 2026; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2793. A communication from the Commissioners of the Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's 2025 FAIR Act Inventory of Commercial and Inherently Governmental Activities; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2794. A communication from the Administrator of the General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administrator's Semiannual Management Report to Congress for the period from April 1, 2025 through September 30, 2025; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2795. A communication from the Chairman, National Railroad Passenger Corporation, Amtrak, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Inspector General's Semiannual Report to Congress for the period from April 1, 2025 through September 30, 2025; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2796. A communication from the Deputy Associate General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Civil Monetary Penalty Adjustments for Inflation Final Rule; Technical Amendment" (RIN1601-AB16) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 20, 2026; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2797. A communication from the Program Analyst, Census Bureau, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Removing Redundant Language From the Regulations Governing the Furnishing of Personal Census Data" (RIN0607-AA71) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 20, 2026; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2798. A communication from the Program Analyst, Census Bureau, Department