

Warrior Outdoor Adventures, he was able to overcome his survivors' guilt and pour into veterans who share similar stories as his own. Andy leads hunting trips across the country through this program, which serve as a time to talk through the tragedies of war and what they have endured on the battlefield.

Seeing the positive effect of these trips sparked a flame in McDuffie's heart to keep finding opportunities to uplift his neighbors in the Wiregrass. Andy has become a leader in everything he is involved in. From serving on the security team as his local church, being a board member at Habitat for Humanity, chairing the local Mardi Gras parade, coordinating a back-to-school event that helps students get haircuts and shoes before the year begins, or speaking to fraternity members at Troy during their annual philanthropy event, Andy keeps the legacy of his fallen marines alive with the support of his wife Brittany. And he continues to share his love for our country with his three children: Hill, Brooks, and Mary Hollis.

Andy is a shining example of turning tragedy into something purpose. It is my honor to recognize him as the April Veteran of the Month.●

TRIBUTE TO PHOU VONGKHAMDY

● Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I rise today to honor my constituent Phou Vongkhamdy, my favorite Lao cowboy.

Phou is the former USDA NRCS State Conservationist for Rhode Island. Since moving to Rhode Island in 2009 and joining the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Phou has become a cornerstone of the northeast agricultural community. His journey, from his beginnings as a student intern to over 15 years leading the State's conservation efforts, is a testament to his dedication to the land and the people who steward it. His leadership and knowledge have led the service to bring exemplary conservation practices to many farmers, forest landowners, cities and towns across the State. A respected leader, Phou has aggressively worked to maximize the effectiveness of the service and, in doing so, has always given 110 percent to everything he works on. While others would often say something could not be done, Phou always strove to find a way to say yes. He made NRCS in Rhode Island the little engine that could.

His commitment is defined by his inclusive approach to conservation, ensuring that the benefits of soil health, water quality, and sustainable forestry are accessible to all. A tenacious public servant, he has actively built the capacity of the conservation districts by developing cooperative agreements with associations. His signature hands-on approach ensured swift and effective collaboration. Under his leadership, the service has seen a substantial increase in utilization of its most popular pro-

grams, the Environmental Quality Incentives Program and the Conservation Stewardship Program. These programs are particularly useful for specialty crop growers and forest land managers, who represent the vast majority of Rhode Island agriculture.

Phou has also been an indispensable partner in our mission to protect Rhode Island's natural beauty and strengthen our communities against the growing threats of climate change. Together, we secured critical investments for our State, most notably the landmark \$48.5 million Federal project to prevent flooding along the Pocasset River, a transformation that will protect families in Cranston and Johnston for generations to come. From our early days restoring migratory fish passages on the Pawtuxet River to his steady leadership in the wake of the historic 2010 floods, Phou has consistently turned Federal resources into real-world results. His dedication as State conservationist preserved thousands of acres of our farmland and wetlands and ensured that the Ocean State remains resilient and vibrant for all who call it home.

I thank and applaud Phou for his work, his devotion, and his friendship. Under his guidance, Rhode Island has seen transformative growth in climate-smart agriculture and farmland protection, securing a more resilient future for the Ocean State.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Hanley, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and a withdrawal which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2025, the Secretary of the Senate, on April 2, 2026, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker Pro Tempore (Mr. VAN EPPS) has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 1884. An act to clarify the Holocaust Expropriated Art Recovery Act of 2016, to appropriately limit the application of defenses based on the passage of time and other non-merits defenses to claims under that Act.

S. 3971. An act to extend the SBIR and STTR programs, and for other purposes.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2025, the en-

rolled bills were signed on April 2, 2026, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. THUNE).

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 4280. A bill to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 to reauthorize and reform certain authorities and to provide greater transparency and oversight.

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on April 2, 2026, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 1884. An act to clarify the Holocaust Expropriated Art Recovery Act of 2016, to appropriately limit the application of defenses based on the passage of time and other non-merits defenses to claims under that Act.

S. 3971. An act to extend the SBIR and STTR programs, and for other purposes.

PRIVILEGED NOMINATION REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

On request by Senator MARIA CANTWELL, under the authority of S. Res. 116, 112th Congress, the following nomination was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Edward Eppler, of Connecticut, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Transportation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. CRUZ, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2351. A bill to supplement existing lease authorities available to the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to support research, education, and training, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 119-117).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. KELLY:

S. 4278. A bill to prohibit funding for the Board of Peace that is not authorized by Congress, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 4279. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prevent the abuse of life insurance tax rules, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LEE (for himself and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 4280. A bill to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 to reauthorize and reform certain authorities and to provide greater transparency and oversight; read the first time.

By Mr. RICKETTS (for himself, Mr. KIM, Mr. RISCH, and Mr. SCHUMER):