

events and festivals. Lad n' Lassie is a go-to for local baby shower gift registries, supporting generations of Kentuckians as they grow their families and welcome children into the world.

Like many small business owners, Cheryl is actively involved in her community. She is a member of the chamber of commerce and regularly meets with local merchants to discuss business development. For years, Lad n' Lassie has contributed to a wide range of local philanthropic organizations, sponsoring events such as the Appalachian Hospice Care's Annual Veterans' Appreciation Luncheon. They regularly support local school district events and organizations, including the sponsorship of dance, cheerleading, and sports teams. During the holiday season, Lad n' Lassie sponsors the annual Prestonsburg Police Department's "Shop with a Cop" event, providing holiday care packages and gift for children in need. Additionally, they sponsored Mountain Comprehensive Care Center's—MCCC—Royal Christmas Ball, which helps children impacted by behavioral health issues, developmental and intellectual disabilities, and addiction. Over the years, the boutique's outstanding service and community involvement have been recognized by local publications and organizations. Most recently, Lad n' Lassie was named the "Best of the Best" children's clothing store in 2021 by the local newspaper, the Floyd County Chronicle & Times.

Lad n' Lassie Children's Boutique is an outstanding example of the critical role small businesses play in uplifting and advocating for their communities. Congratulations to Cheryl and the entire team at Lad n' Lassie. I wish them the best of luck and look forward to watching their continued growth and success in Kentucky. ●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Swann, 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 which were referred to the appropriate committees.

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

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:20 a.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. 654. An act to provide the Administrator of the Drug-Free Communities Sup-

port Program the authority to waive the Federal fund limitation for the Drug-Free Communities Support Program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 767. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 40 Fulton Street in Middletown, New York, as the "Benjamin A. Gilman Post Office Building".

H.R. 960. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3493 Burnet Avenue in Cincinnati, Ohio, as the "John H. Leahr and Herbert M. Heilbrun Post Office".

H.R. 1170. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1 League in Irvine, California, as the "Tuskegee Airman Lieutenant Colonel Robert J. Friend Memorial Post Office Building".

H.R. 1444. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 132 North Loudoun Street, Suite 1 in Winchester, Virginia, as the "Patsy Cline Post Office".

H.R. 1508. An act to require a guidance clarity statement on certain agency guidance, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2044. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 17 East Main Street in Herington, Kansas, as the "Captain Emil J. Kapaun Post Office Building".

H.R. 2379. An act to amend the 21st Century Cures Act to reauthorize and expand a grant program for State response to the opioid use disorders crisis, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3175. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 135 Main Street in Biloxi, Mississippi, as the "Robert S. McKeithen Post Office Building".

H.R. 3210. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1905 15th Street in Boulder, Colorado, as the "Officer Eric H. Talley Post Office Building".

H.R. 3419. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 66 Meserole Avenue in Brooklyn, New York, as the "Joseph R. Lentol Post Office".

H.R. 3635. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to the Strategic National Stockpile, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3919. An act to ensure that the Federal Communications Commission prohibits authorization of radio frequency devices that pose a national security risk.

H.R. 4028. An act to require the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information, to report on and develop a whole-of-Government strategy with respect to the economic competitiveness of the information and communication technology supply chain, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4032. An act to provide outreach and technical assistance to small providers regarding Open RAN networks, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4067. An act to direct the Federal Communications Commission to establish a council to make recommendations on ways to increase the security, reliability, and interoperability of communications networks, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4611. An act to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to issue guidance with respect to certain information and communications technology or services contracts, 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. 654. An act to provide the Administrator of the Drug-Free Communities Support Program the authority to waive the Federal fund limitation for the Drug-Free Communities Support Program and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 767. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 40 Fulton Street in Middletown, New York, as the "Benjamin A. Gilman Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 960. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3493 Burnet Avenue in Cincinnati, Ohio, as the "John H. Leahr and Herbert M. Heilbrun Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 1170. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1 League in Irvine, California, as the "Tuskegee Airman Lieutenant Colonel Robert J. Friend Memorial Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 1444. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 132 North Loudoun Street, Suite 1 in Winchester, Virginia, as the "Patsy Cline Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 2044. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 17 East Main Street in Herington, Kansas, as the "Captain Emil J. Kapaun Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 2379. An act to amend the 21st Century Cures Act to reauthorize and expand a grant program for State response to the opioid use disorders crisis, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 3175. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 135 Main Street in Biloxi, Mississippi, as the "Robert S. McKeithen Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 3210. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1905 15th Street in Boulder, Colorado, as the "Officer Eric H. Talley Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 3419. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 66 Meserole Avenue in Brooklyn, New York, as the "Joseph R. Lentol Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 3635. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to the Strategic National Stockpile, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 4028. An act to require the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information, to report on and develop a whole-of-Government strategy with respect to the economic competitiveness of the information and communication technology supply chain, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 4032. An act to provide outreach and technical assistance to small providers regarding the benefits of Open RAN networks, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 4067. An act to direct the Federal Communications Commission to establish a council to make recommendations on ways to increase the security, reliability, and interoperability of communications networks, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 4611. An act to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to issue guidance with respect to certain information and communications technology or services contracts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

### PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-89. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Texas urging the United States Congress to pass the I am Vanessa Guillen Act, legislation ensuring that necessary changes are made, such as preventing conflicts of interest, requiring independent investigations that are conducted by trained investigators, establishing a confidential reporting option for sexual harassment that can convert to a formal complaint, and directing the Government Accountability Office to evaluate response procedures related to missing service members; to the Committee on Armed Services.

#### HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 51

Whereas, The brutal murder of Vanessa Guillén and the reaction on social media highlight the needed support to the military's response to sexual harassment, sexual assault, and missing persons; and

Whereas, Fort Hood soldier Vanessa Guillén had been missing for more than two months before her remains were discovered, and the investigation received widespread attention when law enforcement identified the suspect, a fellow military member whom Guillén was planning to formally accuse of sexual harassment; this prompted countless members of the U.S. military to share their personal experiences of sexual harassment and sexual assault on social media with the hashtag #IAmVanessaGuillen; and

Whereas, A close look at current military laws and policies reveals concerns, including conflicts of interest and limited options for reporting sexual harassment; too many military members have been failed by this system, and immediate action is imperative to avoid another tragedy; and

Whereas, To correct these issues, the I am Vanessa Guillén Act has been introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives; and

Whereas, The brave men and women who fight for our nation deserve access to justice, and Congress should listen to the service members calling for change in the aftermath of Vanessa Guillén's murder; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the 87th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to pass the I am Vanessa Guillén Act, legislation ensuring that necessary changes are made, such as preventing conflicts of interest, requiring independent investigations that are conducted by trained investigators, establishing a confidential reporting option for sexual harassment that can convert to a formal complaint, and directing the Government Accountability Office to evaluate response procedures related to missing service members; and, be it further

*Resolved*, That the Texas secretary of state forward official copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that this resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

POM-90. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Texas urging the United States Congress to repeal the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision of the Social Security Act; to the Committee on Finance.

#### SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 17

Whereas, Social Security is the foundation for retirement for tens of millions of American workers and their families, with many reporting that they rely on the program as their sole source of income; and

Whereas, Two Social Security provisions, however, the Government Pension Offset (GPO), enacted in 1977, and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), enacted in 1983, severely and unfairly penalize recipients of public pensions; and

Whereas, The GPO effectively prohibits some government retirees from collecting both their own pension and full Social Security benefits as a surviving spouse; an estimated 9 out of 10 public employees affected by the GPO lose their entire spousal benefit, even though their spouses paid Social Security taxes for many years; and

Whereas, The WEP reduces the Social Security benefit for public employees who did not participate in Social Security while working for the government, but who at some time in their careers were in jobs where they paid Social Security taxes for the period required to qualify for retirement benefits; the WEP can deprive a retiree of nearly \$450 a month in Social Security benefits duly earned by that individual; and

Whereas, Although these provisions were intended to curtail the payment of windfall benefits to highly paid government employees, in practice they have had and continue to have devastating consequences for low-income employees who worked for many years as public servants; more than two million government employees and retirees are affected by either the GPO or the WEP or both, and the repercussions are felt most acutely in Texas and 14 other states where a high proportion of public employees participate in state or municipal retirement systems that do not include Social Security; and

Whereas, These punitive and discriminatory provisions target hundreds of thousands of teachers, police officers, firefighters, and other public servants; although the vast majority of Texas school employees participate in the state's teacher retirement system, and therefore are not required to and do not participate in the Social Security system, many Texas teachers and other public school employees nonetheless have earned Social Security benefits on their own behalf through other employment, the WEP notwithstanding, or would be entitled to spousal Social Security benefits based on their spouses' lifetime earnings were it not for the GPO penalty; these provisions cause veteran teachers to retire prematurely and discourage qualified individuals from entering the teaching profession at precisely the time that Texas and the nation face a severe shortage of highly qualified educators; and

Whereas, The GPO and WEP as applied to public employees are unreasonable and unjust and will cause tens of thousands of government retirees to experience a diminished quality of life or be forced to return to work to make up for the effects of these provisions; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the 87th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to repeal the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision of the Social Security Act; and, be it further

*Resolved*, That the Texas secretary of state forward official copies of this resolution to

the president of the United States, to the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that this resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

POM-91. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Texas urging the federal government to halt and reverse, effective immediately, its practice of assuming powers and imposing mandates and laws upon the states for purposes not enumerated by the Constitution of the United States of America; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 12

Whereas, Each member of the legislature has sworn a solemn oath to defend our United States and Texas Constitutions and takes great pride in being a citizen of the United States of America, where citizens have the right to petition their government for redress of grievances; and

Whereas, Section 1, Article I, Texas Constitution, states that "the perpetuity of the Union depend[s] upon the preservation of the right of local self-government, unimpaired to all the States"; Section 2, Article I, declares, "All political power is inherent in the people, and all free governments are founded on their authority, and instituted for their benefit. The faith of the people of Texas stands pledged to the preservation of a republican form of government, and, subject to this limitation only, they have at all times the inalienable right to alter, reform or abolish their government in such manner as they may think expedient"; and

Whereas, The Tenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America reads as follows: "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people"; and

Whereas, The Tenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America defines the total scope of federal power as being that specifically granted by the U.S. Constitution and no more; and

Whereas, The Tenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America means that the federal government was created by the states specifically to be an agent of the states with powers both limited and enumerated; and

Whereas, Today, in 2021, the states are demonstrably treated as agents of the federal government; and

Whereas, Many powers assumed by the federal government as well as federal laws and mandates are in direct violation of the Tenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America; and

Whereas, The Tenth Amendment assures that we, the people of the United States of America and each sovereign state in the Union of States, have always had rights that the federal government may not usurp; and

Whereas, Section 4, Article IV, of the United States Constitution says, "The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a Republican Form of Government," and the Ninth Amendment states, "The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people"; and

Whereas, The United States Supreme Court has ruled in *New York v. United States*, 505 U.S. 144 (1992), that Congress may not simply commandeer the legislative and regulatory processes of the states; and