

Deputy Chief, Army Reserve, Office of the Chief of Army Reserve, headquartered at the Pentagon, Washington, DC. Prior to this assignment, he commanded the 76th Operational Response Command in Salt Lake City, UT, which was the USAR's all hazard response command. He also served as Commanding General—80th Training Command (OPCON to TRADOC), Acting Deputy Commanding General—CBRN, 335th Signal Command, and Commander of the 415th CBRN Brigade, where he was dual-hatted as the Task Force Operations Commander, JTF-51, ARNORTH for the C2CRE-A homeland response mission.

During General Roper's service, he deployed to Saudi Arabia during Operation Desert Shield, to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, and supported Joint Task Force Andrew relief operations in southern Florida.

His awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit with two oakleaf clusters, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with three oakleaf clusters, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Combat Action Badge, and various other accolades. He also served as a principal member of the Secretary of the Army's Army Reserve Forces Policy Committee and the Secretary of Defense's Reserve Forces Policy Board.

On behalf of the people of the great State of Alabama and our Nation, I offer Lieutenant General Roper my heartfelt thanks and wish him a long and happy retirement with his wife Edith and their two daughters. His career is defined by extraordinary devotion to the safety and security of his community and country. We truly owe him a debt of gratitude for his exemplary service to Alabama and the United States of America.●

TRIBUTE TO FLO DAPICE

● Ms. HASSAN. Madam President, I am honored to recognize Flo Dapice of Hopkinton as May's Granite Stater of the Month. At just 16 years old, Flo is working to improve environmental sustainability at her school and in her town by leading her school's Environmental Action Club efforts and by serving in local government positions.

Flo's long-time interest in sustainability made her a perfect fit for the Environmental Action Club at her high school. She led the club in applying for grants from the New Hampshire Energy Education Project and the Hopkinton Public Schools Foundation. The club was awarded more than \$11,000, which allowed it to start a compost program at their school for lunch food waste. The club has evaluated the program and already found a decrease in how much compostable waste is ending up in the trash from last year to this year. Now, Flo and her fellow club members are continuing to work to strengthen the program and, in turn, lead to less food waste at the school.

The next project that Flo and the club are planning is a transition to using metal silverware in the school's cafeteria, instead of disposable plastic utensils. They have already purchased the silverware through more grant funding and are recruiting students to help wash the extra dishes. Flo is also planning to continue her involvement with the New Hampshire Energy Education Project, which works with students and teachers to build a deeper understanding of energy and climate; she recently helped lead a middle school summit with the program.

In addition to sustainability efforts at school, Flo has sought out additional opportunities for public service so that she can make more of a difference. She became interested in local government in middle school during the Covid-19 pandemic, and she now serves as one of two student representatives on the Hopkinton School Board and as a member of Hopkinton's Energy Steering Committee. Her service on the school board strengthened her efforts to apply for grants for her school's compost program, and on both the School Board and the Energy Committee, she has pushed for more ways to reduce carbon emissions.

Flo's dedication to serving her community through combating climate change is a great example of the Granite State spirit of working to make a difference, no matter your age. Her passion for bettering her school and her town is why I am honored to recognize her as Granite Stater of the Month.●

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FORT KEOGH LIVESTOCK LAB

● Mr. TESTER. Madam President, I rise today to honor the longstanding work of the Fort Keogh Livestock and Range Research Laboratory.

Today, Montana's very own Fort Keogh Livestock Range and Research Laboratory is celebrating its 100th anniversary. Since 1924, Fort Keogh has done critically important and cutting-edge research on a wide range of agricultural areas from beef and cattle to soil and drought, truly making this facility a leader in agriculture across the West. The work being done at Fort Keogh benefits not only our State's family farmers and ranchers, but all of our Nation's rural communities.

As a third-generation Montana farmer, I have seen firsthand the importance of their agricultural research to Montana's producers, and I can say with confidence that the hard work of the folks at Fort Keogh plays a key role in keeping agriculture the No. 1 industry in Montana. Every dollar that is invested in this critical research is returned to the community, and it is research that is done at this facility that informs policy decisions like those we make here.

I am proud to have consistently fought for funding for this facility, and I appreciate all of the people at Fort

Keogh that have kept this facility alive for 100 years.

So thank you to all the folks that have played a role in the Fort Keogh Livestock Lab, and congratulations. I look forward to the next 100.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As 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.)

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

NOTICE OF THE INTENT TO DESIGNATE KENYA AS A MAJOR NON-NATO ALLY—PM 55

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with section 517 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended (22 U.S.C. 2321k), I am providing notice of my intent to designate Kenya as a Major Non-NATO Ally.

I am making this designation in recognition of Kenya's many years of contributions to the United States Africa Command area of responsibility and globally and in recognition of our own national interest in deepening bilateral defense and security cooperation with the Government of Kenya. Kenya is one of the United States Government's top counterterrorism and security partners in sub-Saharan Africa, and the designation will demonstrate that the United States sees African contributions to global peace and security as equivalent to those of our Major Non-NATO Allies in other regions. I appreciate the support of the Congress in this action.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.
THE WHITE HOUSE, May 23, 2024.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:02 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1097. An act to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Everett Alvarez, Jr., in recognition of his service to the Nation.

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

The President Pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY) announced that on today,

May 23, 2024, she had signed the following enrolled joint resolution, which was previously signed by the Speaker of the House:

H.J. Res. 109. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Securities and Exchange Commission relating to "Staff Accounting Bulletin No. 121".

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 1097. An act to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Everett Alvarez, Jr., in recognition of his service to the Nation; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mrs. SHAHEEN, from the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, without amendment:

S. 3772. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to require that plain writing statements regarding the solicitation of subcontractors be included in certain subcontracting plans, and for other purposes.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN, from the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 3971. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to require reporting on additional information with respect to small business concerns owned and controlled by women, qualified HUBZone small business concerns, and small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans, and for other purposes.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN, from the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, without amendment:

S. 4414. A bill to improve the State Trade Expansion Program of the Small Business Administration.

H.R. 7987. An act to require plain language and the inclusion of key words in covered notices that are clear, concise, and accessible to small business concerns, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The following executive report of a nomination was submitted:

By Mr. SANDERS for the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Stephen H. Ravas, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, Corporation for National and Community Service.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

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. SCHATZ (for himself and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 4395. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish a floor on

the work geographic index for physicians' services furnished in Hawaii; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 4396. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize an individual who is awarded the Purple Heart for service in the Armed Forces to transfer unused Post-9/11 Educational Assistance to a family member, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. SMITH:

S. 4397. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to provide criteria for use of Federal funds to support trauma-informed practices in schools, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. HASSAN (for herself and Mr. BUDD):

S. 4398. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a micro-employer pension plan startup credit; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. HASSAN (for herself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 4399. A bill to amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to provide for better protections for children raised in kinship families outside of the foster care system; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. BRITT:

S. 4400. A bill to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to carry out a study and rulemaking on the definition of the term "small entity" for purposes of the securities laws, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. BUDD, Mr. BRAUN, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 4401. A bill to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to ensure that the small business regulatory budget for a fiscal year is not greater than zero, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. BRAUN:

S. 4402. A bill to establish the Benjamin Harrison National Recreation Area and Wilderness in the State of Indiana, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. LEE:

S. 4403. A bill to amend the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act to revise the definition of "affected area" and extend the period in which compensation may be provided, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CRAMER (for himself and Mr. HOEVEN):

S. 4404. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 840 Front Street in Casselton, North Dakota, as the "Commander Delbert Austin Olson Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. LEE, Mr. RICKETTS, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. VANCE, Mr. COTTON, and Mr. BARASSO):

S. 4405. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to repeal the natural gas tax; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WELCH, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 4406. A bill to eliminate certain subsidies for fossil-fuel production; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Ms. BUTLER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COONS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. REED, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 4407. A bill to effectively staff the high-need public elementary schools and secondary schools of the United States with school-based mental health services providers; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. HOEVEN, and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 4408. A bill to ensure the timely approval of requests to export defense articles and provide defense services to the State of Israel and the fulfillment of each such agreement; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. HASSAN (for herself, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. BUTLER, and Mr. KING):

S. 4409. A bill to prohibit the disclosure of intimate digital depictions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SULLIVAN:

S. 4410. A bill to prohibit United States cooperation with the International Criminal Court, the use of the Economic Support Fund to support the Palestinian Authority, and any Federal funding for the ICC; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 4411. A bill to require Transmission Organizations to allow aggregators of retail customers to submit to organized wholesale electric markets bids that aggregate demand flexibility of customers of certain utilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. BALDWIN:

S. 4412. A bill to require pre-merger notification to identify entities subject to a collective bargaining agreement and affected labor organizations, to require post-merger monitoring for anticompetitive effects and antitrust violations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself and Mr. PADILLA):

S. 4413. A bill to provide for the establishment of a National Synthetic Biology Center, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN:

S. 4414. A bill to improve the State Trade Expansion Program of the Small Business Administration; from the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship; placed on the calendar.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH:

S. 4415. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to establish a medical readiness program in the Indo-Pacific region, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL:

S. 4416. A bill to designate the Special Guerrilla Unit National Memorial at Veterans Memorial Park in Middletown, Connecticut; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

S. 4417. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to require training on increasing contract awards to small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Ms. BALDWIN):