

Mike and Rachel won the Iowa State University Outstanding Horticulture Alumni of the Year award for their small business success and service to the Cresco community. In 2024, the two received the Iowa Leadership in Agriculture Education Award in recognition of the business' "Educate the Educators" program, which trains and mentors teachers on greenhouse production, horticulture genetics, and real-world horticulture practices. Currently, Mike serves as the chairman of the Iowa State Horticulture Advisory Committee.

Plantpeddler's excellence remains widely recognized. As an active industry leader, Plantpeddler is a member of the Cresco Chamber of Commerce, Choose Iowa, and several regional and national horticulture industry groups. In 2022, Plantpeddler played an active role in providing funding for a greenhouse project at Mike and John's high school alma mater in Cresco. Additionally, the Gooders founded and host a biannual event with roughly 400 growers and industry leaders to share and learn about best practices in floriculture genetic testing. This June, Plantpeddler looks forward to celebrating its 45th anniversary in Iowa. When I visited Plantpeddler in 2020, I witnessed their entrepreneurial spirit and commitment to excellence that allow them to play such an essential role in the floriculture industry. I want to congratulate the Gooders and the entire Plantpeddler team for their hard work and dedication to providing exceptional products and services to families and businesses across Iowa and beyond. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success.●

#### TRIBUTE TO VALDEMAR DEHERRERA

● Mr. LUJÁN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and share the inspiring story of native New Mexican Mr. Valdemar DeHerrera, a World War II veteran and prisoner of war, who celebrated his 105th birthday on October 8, 2024. Valdemar is one of the last American survivors of the fighting in Bataan and Corregidor in the Philippines during the end of World War II.

Valdemar was raised near Taos in the town of Costilla as the third of 14 children. Valdemar helped his family with farming, raising sheep, chickens, cattle, pigs, horses, and crops until dropping out of school in the 10th grade to join the Civilian Conservation Corps. Valdemar did manual labor for conservation projects on rural lands owned by State, local, and Federal governments until he was drafted into the Army at 22 years old. He was sent to train in Fort Bliss, TX, and later deployed to the 515 Coast Artillery in the Philippines.

During the war, Valdemar was captured as a Japanese prisoner of war. He survived the Bataan Death March by escaping to Corregidor Island. Shortly after, Valdemar and his fellow escapees

were captured by the Japanese. During his 3 years and 7 months in captivity, Valdemar was forced to work at a textile plant in Manchuria. He survived off rations consisting of one cup of rice, two cups of water a day, and foraging for grasshoppers, monkeys, and wild spinach. Valdemar was liberated in Manchuria when World War II ended. He returned to Santa Fe, weighing just 80 pounds, spending months recovering. Valdemar credits his faith and the presence of his guardian angel for his survival.

Valdemar has lived a full and meaningful life since his time in the Army. Upon his return home to Costilla, he married Consuelo DeVargas. Valdemar and Consuelo were married until her passing in 2019. Valdemar worked for the State of New Mexico highway department and the MolyCorp Mine. Family has played an integral role in Valdemar's life as he raised his 8 children, 19 grandchildren, 29 great-grandchildren, and 3 great-great grandchildren. Valdemar still attends the Bataan Memorial Death March memorial ceremony each year at White Sands Missile Range.

I had the pleasure of speaking to Valdemar prior to his 105th birthday. I thanked him for his service and sacrifice during World War II. Valdemar, your service will never be forgotten, and I am forever grateful for your role in fighting for our freedom.●

#### TRIBUTE TO JO ANN VERDUCE

● Mr. McCORMICK. Mr. President, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize Pennsylvania's own Jo Ann Verduce.

Starting as a young intern in the communications office for the Diocese of Scranton, she later met the late Sister Marian Denise Walsh, IHM, during the first capital campaign for St. Joseph's Center. Since first joining the St. Joseph's Center Auxiliary, she has spent over 20 years serving as the director of development for the center. As the daughter of Anthony and Josephine Verduce, she was born and raised in Archbald, PA. She lived in other States due to her father's work schedule in construction, which made her a pro at meeting new people across this great Nation. While she attended school in Florida and Hawaii, she graduated from Valley View High School and received a BA in communications and an MS in counselor education from Marywood University. Her deepfelt connection with the IHM Sisters of Marywood led her to a 19-year stretch in public relations for the university.

She is also involved with the Steamtown Marathon team of St. Joe's, and the Go Joe Bike Ride every July with WNEP meteorologist Joe Snedeker. She served on the board of the Scranton chapter of UNICO, promoting Italian heritage, and as president of the ladies auxiliary of the Scranton chapter of UNICO National. She is the president-elect of the Asso-

ciation of Fundraising Professionals NEPA Chapter and was featured in Happenings Magazine and as the Scranton Times Northeast Woman and NOW.

It is with great pride that I recognize the achievements of Jo Ann and bring the attention of Congress to this successful daughter of Pennsylvania; March 5, 2025.●

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:03 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 579. An act to amend parts B and E of title IV of the Social Security Act to improve foster and adoptive parent recruitment and retention, and for other purposes.

H.R. 919. An act to codify Internal Revenue Service guidance relating to treatment of certain services and items for chronic conditions as meeting the preventive care deductible safe harbor for purposes of high deductible health plans in connection with health savings accounts.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 579. An act to amend parts B and E of title IV of the Social Security Act to improve foster and adoptive parent recruitment and retention, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 919. An act to codify Internal Revenue Service guidance relating to treatment of certain services and items for chronic conditions as meeting the preventive care deductible safe harbor for purposes of high deductible health plans in connection with health savings accounts; to the Committee on Finance.

#### MEASURES DISCHARGED PETITION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, hereby direct that the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation be discharged from further consideration of S.J. Res. 7, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Federal Communications Commission relating to "Addressing the Homework Gap Through the E-Rate Program" and, further, that the joint resolution be immediately placed upon the Legislative Calendar under General Orders.

Ted Cruz, Pete Ricketts, John R. Curtis, Deb Fischer, Eric Schmitt, Bill Hagerty, Todd Young, Marsha Blackburn, Ted Budd, Shelley Moore Capito, Mike Lee, Tim Sheehy, James C. Justice, Ron Johnson, Rand Paul, Joni Ernst, Thom Tillis, Jerry Moran, Jim Banks, Tommy Tuberville, Mike Crapo, Bernie Moreno, John Barrasso, John Cornyn, Tim Scott, Markwayne Mullin, Roger F. Wicker, Cynthia M. Lummis, Tom Cotton, Ashley Moody.

#### MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following joint resolution was discharged from the Committee on

Commerce, Science, and Transportation, by petition, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 802(c), and placed on the calendar:

S.J. Res. 7. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Federal Communications Commission relating to "Addressing the Homework Gap Through the E-Rate Program".

#### 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-477. A communication from the United States Trade Representative transmitting, pursuant to the Trade Act of 1974, the 2025 Trade Policy Agenda and the 2024 Annual Report on the Trade Agreements Program; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-478. A communication from the Chair, National Transportation Safety Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Civil Monetary Penalty Annual Inflation Adjustment" (RIN3147-AA33) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 28, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-479. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; New Jersey; Permits and Certificates for Minor Facilities (and Major facilities Without an Operating Permit), and Air Emission Control and Permitting Exemptions" (FRL No. 12459-02-R2) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 28, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-480. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Japan in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 24-084) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-481. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 24-089) for the manufacture of significant military equipment abroad to Japan received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-482. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of firearms, parts, and components controlled under Category I of the U.S. Munitions List to Ukraine in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 24-098) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-483. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Depart-

ment of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of firearms, parts, and components controlled under Category I of the U.S. Munitions List to Colombia in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 24-104) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-484. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to various countries in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 24-106) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-485. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Data Mining Activities by Federal Agencies" received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-486. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Determination Under Section 36(b) (1) of the Arms Export Control Act"; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

#### 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 Ms. HASSAN (for herself and Mr. LEE):

S. 848. A bill to provide for joint reports by relevant Federal agencies to Congress regarding incidents of terrorism, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. MORENO:

S. 849. A bill to prohibit displaying the flag of a country other than the United States on Capitol Hill and to prohibit Members of Congress from using official funds to purchase the flag of a country other than the United States; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. HASSAN (for herself, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 850. A bill to amend the Northern Border Security Review Act to require updates to the northern border threat analysis and the northern border strategy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BANKS (for himself, Mr. COTTON, and Mr. HAWLEY):

S. 851. A bill to amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to disqualify any State that discriminates against parents or guardians who oppose medical, surgical, pharmacological, psychological treatment, or clothing and social changes related to affirming the subjective claims of gender identity expressed by any minor if such claimed identity is inconsistent with such minor's biological sex from receiving funding under such Act; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. BLUNT ROCHES-TER, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. CANT-

WELL, Mr. COONS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. GALLEG0, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KIM, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. PETERS, Mr. REED, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHIFF, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SLOTKIN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 852. A bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act, the Labor Management Relations Act, 1947, and the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1959, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. ERNST:

S. 853. A bill to improve the SBIR and STTR programs under the Small Business Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. PAUL (for himself and Mr. PETERS):

S. 854. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to establish the Life Sciences Research Security Board, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. PAUL (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 855. A bill to require executive branch employees to report certain royalties, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. PETERS, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. HASSAN, and Mr. HAWLEY):

S. 856. A bill to amend the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 to clarify a provision relating to certain contents of registrations under that Act; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CURTIS (for himself, Mr. PADILLA, and Mr. HICKENLOOPER):

S. 857. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the exclusion for certain conservation subsidies to include subsidies for water conservation or efficiency measures, storm water management measures, and wastewater management measures; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. JUSTICE (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. RISCH, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. BUDD, Mr. CRUZ, and Mr. COTTON):

S. 858. A bill to authorize the National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation to establish a commemorative work on the National Mall to honor the extraordinary acts of valor, selfless service, and sacrifice displayed by Medal of Honor recipients; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. LUJÁN (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 859. A bill to modify the requirements applicable to locatable minerals on public domain land, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. RISCH (for himself and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 860. A bill to modify the information about countries exporting methamphetamine that is included in the annual International Narcotics Control Strategy Report, to require a report to Congress on the seizure