

vital mission. As you embark on your service, know that you carry with you the gratitude of the American people. Your work is critical to safeguarding our Nation's security and preserving peace and stability worldwide.

As the USS *IOWA* joins the fleet, it will undoubtedly serve as a powerful reminder to both allies and adversaries of the strength and resolve of our Armed Forces. The State motto of Iowa, featured on the crest of the USS *IOWA*, is "Our Liberties We Prize, Our Rights We Will Maintain." This message encapsulates your ship's vital role in securing the liberties and rights we hold dear as Americans.

As a senator, a soldier, and an Iowan, it is truly an honor to congratulate you on this momentous occasion. May God Bless you all, may God Bless our men and women in uniform, and may God Bless America.

TRIBUTE TO CRAIG WILLIAMS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I rise today to congratulate my friend and fellow Kentuckian Craig Williams for receiving the Defense Community Champions Award. He is one of 18 recipients this year across the country honored for making a difference in the defense community. I ask my colleagues to please join me in recognizing his impressive achievement, which is well deserved.

In his early years, Craig dutifully served our Nation as an Army translator solidifying his dedication to our country and to missions bigger than himself. This was only the tip of the iceberg when it came to his career of dedicated public service. After returning to the States, Craig refocused his attention on a pressing local issue that impacted thousands of his fellow neighbors in Richmond, KY, where over 500 tons of chemical warfare agents were stored at the Bluegrass Army Depot (BGAD).

President Ronald Reagan's call for a global prohibition on chemical weaponry spurred much needed attention to the disposal of our Nation's stockpile. The Army's initial plan to destroy these weapons through incineration was cause for concern due to potential poison leaks into the greater Madison County community. Craig jumped into action, pursuing the daunting task of taking on the bureaucracy and holding our government accountable for the promise it made to safely dispose of these chemical weapons. While Craig and I may have seemed like unlikely political allies, I believed his cause was just, and I was ready to help him push government in the right direction to keep Kentuckians safe.

Our first victory together dates back to my first term in the U.S. Senate, when we put a stop to new munitions entering the Commonwealth. The success continued thanks to Craig's tireless advocacy work. In 1991, he founded a coalition consisting of over 40 representatives from around the world

known as the Chemical Weapons Working Group. Within just 2 years, Craig and his group successfully lobbied Congress to delay the incineration of the chemical weapons, forcing a further exploration of safer options. Thus began a 30-year march toward the final goal of total disposal.

I am proud to have helped Craig by fighting to bring home over \$7 billion in Federal funding to support the responsible destruction of these munitions. This project was nothing short of a team effort. Through Craig's work on the Kentucky Chemical Demilitarization Citizens' Advisory Commission, he served as dependable eyes and ears on the ground, ensuring effective communication and transparency between government and the public. Our relationship was built on trust, and it proved invaluable as we worked together to meet the needs of this project. In July 2023, our hard work alongside community partners paid off as the last chemical weapons at BGAD were destroyed.

Craig is well known for his work and was honored in 2006 with the Goldman Environmental Prize, an award inspired by the Nobel Prize. His story is one of true passion for the well-being of his neighbors and community. Our accomplishments together are proof that government functions best when working in tandem with the people it serves. I am confident Craig will continue to tackle the issues that matter most to him and will serve the public vigilantly in all of his future endeavors. Once again, I ask my Senate colleagues to join me in congratulating Craig on this distinguished award.

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-721. A communication from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "OMB Final Sequestration Report to the President and Congress for Fiscal Year 2025"; to the Special Committee on Aging; Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; Appropriations; Armed Services; Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; the Budget; Commerce, Science, and Transportation; Energy and Natural Resources; Environment and Public Works; Select Committee on Ethics; Finance; Foreign Relations; Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions; Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; Indian Affairs; Select Committee on Intelligence; the Judiciary; Rules and Administration; Joint Committee on Taxation; Small Business and Entrepreneurship; and Veterans' Affairs.

EC-722. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of General Counsel, Department of Transportation, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 3, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-723. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pur-

suant to law, a notice of certain actions taken to address the continuing threat posed by the synthetic opioid supply chain originating in the People's Republic of China; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-724. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "U.S. Compliance with the Authorization for Use of Military Force in Iraq" received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-725. A communication from the Chief Executive Officer of the Peace Corps, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Peace Corps' fiscal year 2024 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-726. A communication from the Director, Office of Civil Rights, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency's fiscal year 2024 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-727. A communication from the Chairman of the Surface Transportation Board, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Surface Transportation Board, Office of Equal Employment Opportunity Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Report to Congress" received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

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. TILLIS (for himself and Mr. COONS):

S. 1305. A bill to allow for greater collaboration between the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority and the network of Manufacturing USA institutes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. JOHNSON (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, and Mr. LEE):

S. 1306. A bill to require the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to reissue a final rule removing the gray wolf from the list of endangered and threatened wildlife under the Endangered Species Act of 1973; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. SHEEHY (for himself and Mr. JUSTICE):

S. 1307. A bill to allow certain qualified law enforcement officers and retired law enforcement officers to carry concealed firearms to protect children in school zones; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TILLIS (for himself, Mr. BUDD, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. MORENO, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 1308. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify the criteria for approval of certain independent study programs for purposes of the educational assistance programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. PETERS, Ms. SMITH, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 1309. A bill to modify the definition of disaster in the Small Business Act to include low or no snowfall amounts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. LUJÁN (for himself, Ms. SMITH, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. GALLEGOS, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. REED, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 1310. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to end the tax subsidy for employer efforts to influence their workers' exercise of their rights around labor organizations and engaging in collective actions; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. CAPITO (for herself, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. SULLIVAN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. WICKER, Ms. ERNST, Mr. JUSTICE, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. BUDD, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. MORAN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. COTTON, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. MORENO, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. RISCH, Mr. MARSHALL, and Mr. HOEVEN):

S.J. Res. 45. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "California State Motor Vehicle and Engine Pollution Control Standards; Advanced Clean Cars II; Waiver of Preemption; Notice of Decision"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mrs. FISCHER (for herself, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. DAINES, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. MORAN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CASIDY, Mr. MORENO, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. CRAPO, and Mr. HOEVEN):

S.J. Res. 46. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "California State Motor Vehicle and Engine Pollution Control Standards; Heavy-Duty Vehicle and Engine Emission Warranty and Maintenance Provisions; Advanced Clean Trucks; Zero Emission Airport Shuttle; Zero-Emission Power Train Certification; Waiver of Preemption; Notice of Decision"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. MULLIN (for himself, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mrs. FISCHER):

S.J. Res. 47. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "California State Motor Vehicle and Engine and Nonroad Engine Pollution Control Standards; The 'Omnibus' Low NO_x Regulation; Waiver of Preemption; Notice of Decision"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. BANKS:

S. 1311. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to seek to enter into an agreement with a federally funded research and development center for an assessment of notice letters that the Secretary sends to claimants for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

S. Res. 155. A resolution honoring the life and legacy of the Honorable Mia Bourdeau Love, former Representative for the State of Utah; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. ROUNDS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. CURTIS, Ms. SMITH, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. SULLIVAN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. PADILLA, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. Res. 156. A resolution commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. HYDE-SMITH (for herself, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. COTTON, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. HUSTED):

S. Res. 157. A resolution designating April 2025 as "National Native Plant Month"; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 145

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. HUSTED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 145, a bill to require the redesignation of Ansarallah as a foreign terrorist organization.

S. 214

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 214, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the rate of the special pension payable to Medal of Honor recipients, and for other purposes.

S. 339

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. MORENO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 339, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage of multi-cancer early detection screening tests.

S. 424

At the request of Mrs. BRITT, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 424, a bill to amend the Federal securities laws to enhance 403(b) plans, and for other purposes.

S. 522

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 522, a bill to amend the Federal Credit Union Act to modify the frequency of board of directors meetings, and for other purposes.

S. 932

At the request of Mr. MULLIN, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) were added as cosponsors of S. 932, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to molecularly targeted pediatric cancer investigations, and for other purposes.

S. 942

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BANKS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 942, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for interest-free deferment on student loans for borrowers serving in a medical or dental internship or residency program.

S. 963

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 963, a bill to establish the Space National Guard.

S. 1060

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1060, a bill to amend the Clayton Act to prevent conflicts of interest and promote competition in the sale and purchase of digital advertising.

S. 1064

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1064, a bill to preserve open competition and Federal Government neutrality towards the labor relations of Federal Government contractors on Federal and federally funded construction projects, and for other purposes.

S. 1110

At the request of Mr. HUSTED, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1110, a bill to require the use of artificial intelligence to review agency regulations, and for other purposes.

S. 1147

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1147, a bill to establish clear and consistent biological definitions of male and female.

S. 1205

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1205, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow charitable organizations to make statements relating to political campaigns if such statements are made in the ordinary course of carrying out its tax exempt purpose.

S. 1206

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. SHEEHY) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) were added as cosponsors of S. 1206, a bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to prohibit the issuance of national injunctions, and for other purposes.

S. 1243

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1243, a bill to ensure high-income earners pay a fair share of Federal taxes.