

dairy heifers. Having started with 24 acres of corn and cotton, by the end of his life, Reaper was widely acknowledged for his novel approach to farming in the Ozark Mountain foothills.

Rison native Frank Wilson and his two brothers started Wilson Brothers Lumber in 1982 and saw it become an industry-leading operation. He would go on to develop critical software programs designed to assist producers with keeping forest management and financial records. Wilson also has helped raise \$11 million for Arkansas Children's Hospital and built multiple local businesses while holding over 17,000 acres of south Arkansas timberland.

On behalf of all Arkansans, I congratulate these deserving individuals for their long-lasting contributions that have improved Arkansas agriculture. Our State remains among the top agriculturally because of them and everything they represent. We are very proud of their achievements, and I am pleased to join the Arkansas Agriculture Hall of Fame in recognizing and honoring these leaders.●

#### REMEMBERING JERRY ATKINSON

●Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor and commemorate the extraordinary life of Jerry Atkinson, who sadly passed away in California, while visiting his grandkids, on December 24, 2024. A proud Illinoisian, his insurance business, and dedication to helping others supported many Illinois families plan and secure their futures.

Born to Bill and Aileen Atkinson on November 28, 1955, Jerry grew up in Westchester, IL. In Westchester, he forged and maintained lifelong friendships that meant the world to him. Some of his fondest childhood memories include George's Standard Service baseball team, games of Off-The-Wall, and all things baseball. He loved sports and was a loyal Bears and White Sox fan.

Jerry had a huge heart and was blessed with great empathy for others. He faced adversity in his own life and was always willing to help anyone and would literally give the shirt off his back to a person in need.

Jerry led a successful agency in the western suburbs, where he gave many Illinois families access to affordable coverage.

Jerry met his loving wife of 43 years, Dawn, at work. They started dating and got married on April 4, 1981, at Christ the King Catholic Parish in Lombard. Soon after, they welcomed their children Kevin and Leah into the world. Jerry's heart expanded even more with the births of his grandchildren Silas and Sage.

He was always grateful for his family's strong, loving bond. He is survived by Dawn; Kevin and Leah, with spouse Jeff; Silas and Sage; siblings Mary Lynn Cali and Bill Atkinson with spouses Phil and Sandy, Dan Atkinson

with spouse Mary Ann, and John Atkinson with spouse Bonnie; 11 nieces and nephews; and many great nieces and nephews.

Jerry's passing at the age of 69 marks the end of a life filled with love, passion, and dedication. His legacy lives on through his children, grandchildren, and the countless lives he touched.

I ask my colleagues in the Senate to join me in honoring the life and legacy of Jerry Atkinson for his unwavering love for his family and his lifelong commitment to service. His story is one of love and compassion that we can all strive towards.●

#### RECOGNIZING HOPE WOMEN'S CENTER

●Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Hope Women's Center in Newton, KS, for their efforts in declaring January 22, 2025, as the Sanctity of Human Life Day and Respect for Life Day in Harvey County, KS.

Hope Women's Center has long been a leader in promoting the sanctity of life, as they have worked tirelessly to support expectant mothers, providing them with necessary resources, care, and education. Their commitment to protecting and caring for those in need reflects the core values that strengthen our communities, the State of Kansas, and our Nation.

As an OB/GYN and a lifelong advocate for life, I delivered over 5,000 babies, witnessing the beauty of life with every birth. There is no greater moment than handing a newborn to their mother for the first time. I remain committed to protecting life at all stages, including the unborn, the expectant mother, and the new mother. Through my experiences in starting and supervising multiple family planning clinics, I believe we must ensure access to prenatal care, nutrition, and childcare, as well as attend to the social challenges a mother faces. I am proud to support legislation that addresses these points, and I look forward to working with my Senate colleagues on legislative solutions that ensure life is protected at all stages in the future.

Our Founding Fathers understood that the protection of life is the very cornerstone of our Nation. In declaring that all men are created equal, endowed with the unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, they affirmed the importance of defending life, from conception to natural death. It is our moral duty to ensure that life is cherished and safeguarded, as this principle serves as the moral foundation of America and should be a guiding beacon for the world.

I now ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing January 22, 2025, as the Sanctity of Human Life Day and Respect for Life Day in Harvey County, KS, as well as in thanking Hope Women's Center for all the great work they are accomplishing.●

#### REMEMBERING TAYLOR ELIZABETH LONG FISHEL

●Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life of Taylor Elizabeth Long Fishel who passed away on December 23, 2024, at the young age of 31. Taylor was born in Tallahassee, FL, where she graduated from Leon High School and Florida State University. Taylor was a caring friend, wife, and mother who is survived by her husband Howell and their sons Lewis and James. Taylor is also survived by her parents and other family members. Today we acknowledge the wonderful impact she made on all those who knew her.●

#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Ms. Kelly, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The message received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:04 p.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 bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 186. An act 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.

H.R. 187. An act to provide for the standardization, consolidation, and publication of data relating to public outdoor recreational use of Federal waterways among Federal land and water management agencies, and for other purposes.

H.R. 197. An act to provide for a land exchange in the Chippewa National Forest, Minnesota, and for other purposes.

H.R. 204. An act to require that the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior submit accurate reports regarding hazardous fuels reduction activities, and for other purposes.

H.R. 207. An act to direct the Secretary of Commerce to establish a task force regarding shark depredation, 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. 186. An act 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.

H.R. 187. An act to provide for the standardization, consolidation, and publication of data relating to public outdoor recreational use of Federal waterways among Federal land and water management agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 197. An act to provide for a land exchange in the Chippewa National Forest, Minnesota, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

H.R. 204. An act to require that the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior submit accurate reports regarding hazardous fuels reduction activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 207. An act to direct the Secretary of Commerce to establish a task force regarding shark depredation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

### EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The following executive report of a nomination was submitted:

By Mr. CRUZ for the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

\*Sean Duffy, of Wisconsin, to be Secretary of Transportation.

\*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

### 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. COTTON (for himself, Mr. CRAMER, and Mrs. BRITT):

S. 176. A bill to direct the President to take such actions as may be necessary to prohibit the purchase of public or private real estate located in the United States by citizens and entities of the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. ERNST (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. DAINES, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. SHEEHY, Mr. THUNE, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. BANKS, Mr. HAWLEY, and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 177. A bill to prohibit Federal funding of Planned Parenthood Federation of America; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. ERNST (for herself, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. DAINES, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. RISCH, Mr. HAWLEY, and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 178. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act and the Public Health Service Act to improve the reporting of abortion data to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TUBERVILLE (for himself, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. MARSHALL, Mrs.

BRITT, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. SHEEHY, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. FISCHER, and Ms. LUMMIS):

S. 179. A bill to amend the Defense Production Act of 1950 to prevent harm and disruption to the United States agriculture industry by protecting against foreign influence over agriculture production and supply chains, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 180. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize the use of grant amounts for providing training and resources for first responders on the use of containment devices to prevent secondary exposure to fentanyl and other potentially lethal substances, and purchasing such containment devices for use by first responders; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RISCH (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. SHEEHY, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Ms. LUMMIS):

S. 181. A bill to require agencies submit zero-based budgets; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. RISCH (for himself, Mr. DAINES, Mr. SHEEHY, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. LUMMIS, and Mr. BARRASSO):

S. 182. A bill to provide for operations of the Federal Columbia River Power System pursuant to a certain operation plan for a specified period of time, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 183. A bill to authorize major medical facility projects for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2025, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. JOHNSON (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. RISCH, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. CRAPO, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 184. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to define the term natural cheese; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. TILLIS (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. SHEEHY, Mr. ROUNDS, and Mr. BUDD):

S. 185. A bill to provide a civil remedy for individuals harmed by sanctuary jurisdiction policies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mr. LANKFORD, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. BANKS, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. BUDD, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. DAINES, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. JUSTICE, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LEE, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. SHEEHY, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TUBERVILLE, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 186. A bill to prohibit taxpayer funded abortions; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself, Mr. DAINES, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs. BLACK-

BURN, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. MARSHALL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. RISCH, and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S. 187. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently allow a tax deduction at the time an investment in qualified property is made; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PAUL (for himself, Mr. LEE, Mr. SCHMITT, and Ms. LUMMIS):

S. 188. A bill to prohibit Federal employees and contractors from directing online platforms to censor any speech that is protected by the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. ROSEN (for herself and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 189. A bill to amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to expand the capacity of junior or community colleges and area career and technical education schools to conduct training services, education, and outreach activities for careers in the residential construction industry; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 190. A bill to enhance the operations of the North Pacific Research Board; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. LUMMIS (for herself and Mr. KELLY):

S. 191. A bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to modify certain regulations relating to the requirements for commercial driver's license testing and commercial learner's permit holders, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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

S. 192. A bill to restrict the first-use strike of nuclear weapons; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SANDERS, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 193. A bill to repeal the Alien Enemies Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO):

S. 194. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for an election to expense certain qualified sound recording costs otherwise chargeable to capital account; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. HICKENLOOPER):

S. 195. A bill to amend the Visit America Act to promote music tourism, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. LUJAN):

S. 196. A bill to improve online ticket sales and protect consumers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. BUDD, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. TUBERVILLE, and Mr. COTTON):

S. 197. A bill to require the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States to review any purchase or lease of real estate near a military installation or military airspace in the United States by a foreign person connected to or subsidized by the Russian Federation, the People's Republic of China, the Islamic Republic of Iran, or the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and