

The Gathering was first produced in 1985 by a small group of folklorists and poets, and after 40 years, it has grown into a national and international weeklong celebration of the cultural expression of the rangeland West. Cowboy poetry is one of the most popular forms of occupational poetry, and in 2000, Congress designated this event as the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering.

Today, the Gathering brings together thousands of people, ranging from cowboys and saddlemakers to insurance salespersons and plumbers, all of whom share a mutual admiration, respect, and dedication to what the West was, is, and will be. The celebration features more than 40 artists and dozens of events to forge connections and grow knowledge through food, gear, film, discussions, dance, music, verse, and more.

The Gathering is held every year in Elko, which is the largest town in northeastern Nevada and abuts the scenic Ruby Mountains. Elko was founded in 1869 with the Transcontinental Railroad and has a storied tradition of ranching and mining. As the heart of northeast Nevada, Elko is a fitting place to honor the traditions of cowboy poetry.

The event takes place at venues throughout Elko, but the heart of the Gathering is at the Western Folklife Center, headquartered in the historic Pioneer Hotel. The Western Folklife Center was founded in 1980 and provides a platform for rural and urban communities to communicate and exchange new ideas and avenues of expression. They produced the first Cowboy Poetry Gathering in 1985, and it remains their signature event, with programming changing to reflect contemporary realities and issues of the American West.

As a representative of Nevada and the West, I know how important our rural communities are to our State's and country's economy and culture. The National Cowboy Poetry Gathering is so special because it brings together a broad community of different identities, all of whom are deeply connected to the Western life. Charles Greenhaw, a member of the steering committee of the first Gathering, wrote, "If the Gathering can be characterized in a word it's warmth. Why? Who knows. Maybe because when we aren't hemmed-in, we are all cowboys and poets."

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering's 40 years of celebrating, remembering, and passing down the creative richness of the West.●

RECOGNIZING THE 40-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEVADA NORTHERN RAILWAY MUSEUM

●Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I come forward today to recognize the 40th anniversary of the Nevada Northern Railway Museum. Following the

closure of the Nevada Northern Railway in 1983, a group of concerned citizens in Ely, NV, sought to acquire the railroad and open the former site as a tourist operation to offset the economic impact of losing the railway. It was through the power of passionate individuals and generous donations that the Nevada Northern Railway Museum was formed in conjunction with the city of Ely in 1984.

Previously owned by the Nevada Consolidated Copper Company, the Nevada Northern Railway was constructed in 1905–06 to support the growing copper mining industry after massive copper deposits were discovered in White Pine County in the early 1900s. The railway then quickly became a necessity for transporting copper to processing and shipping sites and eventually out for market sale. Creating jobs and promoting growth of critical infrastructure, the Nevada Northern Railway played a significant role in the economic development of the State of Nevada at the time.

The decline of the copper mining industry ultimately led to the closure of the Nevada Northern Railway in 1983, leaving the citizens of Ely with a desire to find a new purpose for the historic buildings. It was then, thanks to local efforts, that the Kennecott Copper Company agreed to transfer the entire line, as well as the railroad's yard and shop facilities, to the White Pine Historical Railroad Foundation. Today, that organization is known as the Nevada Northern Railway Museum and operates as a family friendly tourist destination in the heart of this picturesque rural community. As a heritage railroad, the Nevada Northern Railway Museum offers an immersive experience filled with historical artifacts and the opportunity to experience Nevada's high deserts and some of the darkest skies in the lower 48 States. Visitors are able to experience passenger excursions pulled by historic steam and diesel locomotives, while listening to exhilarating tales about what life was like during the boom of the mining industry. Perhaps their most famous excursion is the Star Train experience, which allows visitors the opportunity to view the Great Basin night sky free of light pollution, using telescopes for stargazing. I have had the pleasure of joining Nevada Northern Railway for an evening of viewing the desert skies and can say from personal experience that it is a ride unlike any other.

With approval from the National Park Service and the support of my predecessor Senator Harry Reid, the Nevada Northern Railway Museum was able to officially designate the East Ely Yard as a National Historic Landmark in 2006. However, many came to know the Nevada Northern Railway Museum when a friendly stray named Dirt the Cat rose to viral fame as the "Boss Shop Cat," keeping watch over daily operations at the railway. Dirt attracted visitors from all over the world who hoped to meet the local ce-

lebrity, and he captured the hearts of many Nevadans in his time. His legacy lives on in a number of shop cats that now call the museum home. Largely considered the best-preserved short line rail in the country, the Nevada Northern Railway Museum has put forth tremendous efforts to preserve the history of Ely and provide family fun to visitors of all ages. It is my honor to recognize their 40th anniversary of official service to our State. As a true pillar of heritage, education, and cultural preservation, I wish them well in continuing their work for many years to come.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:02 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 bill, without amendment:

S. 5. An act to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to take into custody aliens who have been charged in the United States with theft, and for other purposes.

At 10:17 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 bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 165. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to complete all actions necessary for certain land to be held in restricted fee status by the Oglala Sioux Tribe and Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 1024(a), and the order of the House of January 3, 2025, the Speaker appoints the following Members on the part of the House of Representatives to the Joint Economic Committee: Mr. Schweikert of Arizona and Mr. Beyer of Virginia.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 2:44 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 5. An act to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to take into custody aliens who have been charged in the United States with theft, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 165. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to complete all actions necessary for certain land to be held in restricted fee status by the Oglala Sioux Tribe and Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, January 23, 2025, she had

presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 5. An act to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to take into custody aliens who have been charged in the United States with theft, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. SCOTT, of South Carolina, for the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

*Eric Turner, of Texas, to be Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

By Mr. LEE for the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

*Douglas Burgum, of North Dakota, to be Secretary of the Interior.

*Christopher Wright, of Colorado, to be Secretary of Energy.

By Mrs. CAPITO for the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

*Lee Zeldin, of New York, to be Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

By Mr. MORAN for the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

*Douglas Collins, of Georgia, to be Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

*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. CRAPO (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. WYDEN, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 199. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide special rules for the taxation of certain residents of Taiwan with income from sources within the United States; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MORENO:

S. 200. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to modify the eligibility requirements for asylum; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KELLY (for himself and Mr. COTTON):

S. 201. A bill to provide for a study by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine on the prevalence and mortality of cancer among individuals who served as active aircrew in the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. 202. A bill to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to establish a program to allow small business concerns to purchase certain commodities futures, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. PAUL (for himself, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. BUDD, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. CRUZ, and Mr. BANKS):

S. 203. A bill to prohibit Federal funding of Planned Parenthood Federation of America;

to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. BARRASSO):

S. 204. A bill to protect the right of parents to direct the upbringing of their children as a fundamental right; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. BUDD, Mr. BANKS, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. HAWLEY, and Mr. SHEEHY):

S. 205. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit discrimination by abortion against an unborn child on the basis of Down syndrome; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. 206. A bill to suspend normal trade relations with the People's Republic of China and to increase the rates of duty applicable with respect to articles imported from the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. BUDD, Mr. BANKS, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. HAWLEY, and Mr. SHEEHY):

S. 207. A bill to prohibit the award of Federal funds to an institution of higher education that hosts or is affiliated with a student-based service site that provides abortion drugs or abortions to students of the institution or to employees of the institution or site, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

S. 208. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the Stop, Observe, Ask, and Respond to Health and Wellness Training Program; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

S. 209. A bill to protect children from medical malpractice in the form of gender-transition procedures; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. ERNST (for herself, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mr. DAINES):

S. 210. A bill to prohibit agencies from using Federal funds for publicity or propaganda purposes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

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

S. 211. A bill to amend the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to improve the management of grazing permits and leases, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BUDD (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. MARSHALL, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. JUSTICE, and Mr. SHEEHY):

S. 212. A bill to make the assault of a law enforcement officer a deportable offense, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. MORAN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. RICKETTS, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. RISCH, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. WICKER, Ms. LUMMIS, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. CRUZ, Mr.

LANKFORD, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. JUSTICE, Mr. SHEEHY, Mrs. FISCHER, Ms. ERNST, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. THUNE, Mr. BUDD, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. BANKS, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. SULLIVAN, and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 213. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the deduction for qualified business income; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Mr. COTTON):

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; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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

S. 215. A bill to amend the mission statement of the United States Military Academy to include the phrase "Duty, Honor, Country"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 216. A bill to amend the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act to improve the administration of the Marine Debris Foundation, to amend the Marine Debris Act to improve the administration of the Marine Debris Program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Ms. ROSEN):

S. 217. A bill to amend the Apex Project, Nevada Land Transfer and Authorization Act of 1989 to include the city of North Las Vegas, Nevada, and the Apex Industrial Park Owners Association, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. CURTIS, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 218. A bill to designate the area between the intersections of 16th Street, Northwest and Fuller Street, Northwest and 16th Street, Northwest and Euclid Street, Northwest in Washington, District of Columbia, as "Oswaldo Paya Way"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. WICKER, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. CRUZ, and Mr. SHEEHY):

S. 219. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to improve the ability of veterans to access medical care in medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs and in the community by providing veterans the ability to choose health care providers; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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

S. 220. A bill to reserve to Congress the authority to establish or extend a national monument; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mr. GALLEGO):

S. 221. A bill to extend the customs waters of the United States from 12 nautical miles to 24 nautical miles from the baselines of the United States, consistent with Presidential Proclamation 7219; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mr. WELCH, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs.