

to care for her three children. The community—like many still, unfortunately, in Alaska—didn't have hospitals or clinics. They didn't have medicine. The Federal Government basically turned a blind eye to the havoc that this disease was wreaking over all of Alaska, particularly in our small villages.

What the community did have was each other. They had food, and they had the bounty of the land. They had elders to help teach the young people in the village the true meaning of subsistence living.

James's mother, Emma, hunted and fished to feed the family, and she and James's uncle taught James how to be a conservationist, only taking enough fish and wild game to survive and ensuring enough was left for other villagers—lessons he has passed on to the younger generations of Alaskans, year after year.

James met his wife Nancy 50 years ago. She lived in another village. He met her when he was out trapping for food. He said:

I walked 52 miles and found my wife at the end of my trapline. It was my best catch [ever].

James's accomplishments are legion. He spent 22 years in the Alaska National Guard, like so many Alaskan Natives who serve at higher rates in the U.S. military than any other ethnic group in the country. He has served on the Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council, the Fish and Game Advisory Council, and the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group.

James travels all around our great State, attending different meetings and testifying at the Board of Fish and Game. He has dedicated his life to fish and wildlife conservation so he can set an example for Alaskans today and future generations, including his own family.

He has 5 children, 15 grandchildren, and 12 great-grandchildren. He is so committed to keeping the culture and tradition alive that none of his kids or great grandkids are allowed into his house unless they are able to speak Yupik, the traditional language of his people.

For all his work to help continue a vital tradition of subsistence and conservation in Alaska, James was awarded the conservationist of the year award by the Fish and Wildlife Service this past summer, which he accepted at this year's Alaska Federation of Natives Convention.

For his work, James is our Alaskan of the Week.

Thank you, James, for all you have done for the great State of Alaska.

TRIBUTE TO ALEX SCHENCK

Mr. President, I wish to say a few words about one of the members of my staff, who happens to be on the floor with me right now. Alex Schenck, unfortunately for me, is leaving my office on January 5 to pursue another opportunity in Washington, DC.

Alex has been in my office since 2015. He has been a legislative correspondent and rose to be a legislative aide where he oversaw issues related to my work on both the Environment and Public Works Committee and the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee. Most notably and importantly for this body and, I believe, for the entire country, Alex was the key member of my staff who drafted S. 756, the Save Our Seas Act, the SOS Act, an important bipartisan piece of legislation we worked on with Senator WHITEHOUSE and others. It passed the Senate last year.

This legislation, which is awaiting movement in the House, will address a very important issue not only for Alaska but for the entire country, which is the epidemic of marine debris affecting our oceans, our shorelines, inland waterways, coasts across the globe, fish and wildlife habitat, and the health and sustainability of our fisheries.

What Alex was able to do in terms of this bill is very impressive. He brought together an impressive coalition of industry and conservation groups to support the bill. In addition to working on that important legislation—which we are hopeful will move in the House and get signed by the President—Alex ran point on hearings that I chaired at the Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard.

He has a bachelor of science degree from High Point University in North Carolina and a master's degree in applied political science from American University. He is an avid outdoorsman, as you can probably tell. He is a good-natured and extremely hard-working member of my team.

He will be sorely missed. We wish him the very best.

Thank you, Alex.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO KELLY FLYNN

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week I have the distinct honor of recognizing Montana Representative Kelly

Flynn of Broadwater County for his service to the State of Montana. Kelly is currently serving his fourth term in the Montana State Legislature. He continues to serve with an unyielding commitment to his constituents and the well-being of the State, while also fighting cancer. This past November, Kelly made the motion to adjourn the legislative special session, concluding, "Cancer may take my body but it will never take my heart and soul."

Kelly's heart and soul are Montana through and through. Kelly is a rancher and outfitter who serves as chairman of the Montana House of Representatives Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Committee. He has also served on the Governor's Council for Private Lands and Public Wildlife and the Montana Board of Outfitters and is currently serving as a member of the Broadwater County Farm Bureau. Montana has benefited greatly from his decades of service.

Kelly has been a friend of mine for years. His work ethic is exceptional, and he is the best master of ceremonies in Broadwater County. His commitment to others represents the heart and soul of Montana. •

TRIBUTE TO JUNE RYCHALSKI

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week, I have the distinct honor of recognizing June Rychalski for her service with the Montana Department of Military Affairs. She has served Montana with grace, diligence, a positive attitude, and genuine care for the people of the Treasure State.

During her 35 years of service, June has been secretary to the senior Army adviser, administrative assistant to the adjutant general, and next month will complete her career with the Montana Veterans Affairs Division. June demonstrated compassion and professionalism on a daily basis. Her ability to help a grieving family member navigate the challenges of veteran burial honors or steer a distressed veteran in the right direction to attain benefits is highly commendable. Her presence in the Montana Department of Military Affairs will be missed, but the mentorship she provided agency personnel over the years will ensure that her legacy endures. To her coworkers, June was regarded as their greatest advocate.

When June retires, she plans to do what she has always done: continue to take good care of others. At age 83, June's example is inspiring. Her work ethic, compassion, and commitment to excellence represent the best of Montana values.

Thank you, June, for your service. I wish you the best in retirement and appreciate all you have done for our State. •

TRIBUTE TO BARBARA JOHNSON

• Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the career of Barbara

Johnson and to pay tribute to her hard work on behalf of the people of Minnesota.

As Hennepin County attorney, I had the pleasure of collaborating with Barb on a variety of local initiatives. She helped me get started when I was first elected, and I knew I could always count on her guidance and wisdom. Over 20 years of public service, she proved she was a natural leader motivated by compassion and the desire to help the people of her city.

Whether as a council member or its president, Barb strove to give everyone in the Fourth District a voice in Minneapolis.

Before running for office, she served the community as a registered nurse. She often talked about how her experience inspired her efforts to help the growing healthcare sector in Minneapolis.

Barb was deeply committed to our parks and served on the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission for 18 years. She demonstrated that commitment by securing a 20-year deal to increase spending for our Minneapolis parks.

Throughout her career, Barb played a critical role in improving the lives of the people of Minneapolis. She supported local businesses and encouraged homeownership in her district and around Minneapolis. She also helped lift the wages of thousands of people across the city.

I want to recognize all of Barb's accomplishments, but I am sure there are more to come. Her commitment to public service is steadfast, and I am confident she will keep giving back to our State. I can't wait to see what she does next.

I hope you will join me as I say thank you to Barbara Johnson for her 20 remarkable years of service to the city of Minneapolis, the State of Minnesota, and the United States of America. ●

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 4667. An act making further supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, for disaster assistance for Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria, and calendar year 2017 wildfires, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.J. Res. 36. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the final rule of the Bureau of Land Management relating to "Waste Prevention, Production Subject to Royalties, and Resource Conservation"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on December 27, 2017, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 1766. A bill to reauthorize the SAFER Act of 2013, and for other purposes.

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-3833. A communication from the Executive Secretary, Medicare-Eligible Retiree Health Care Board of Actuaries, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the 2017 Report of the Department of Defense Medicare-Eligible Retiree Health Care Fund (MERHCF); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3834. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214/5 Series)" (RIN0790-AJ88) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2017; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3835. A communication from the Director of Defense Pricing and Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: New Qualifying Country - Latvia" (RIN0750-AJ47) (DFARS Case 2017-0020) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2017; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3836. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense (Special Operations/Low-Intensity Conflict), transmitting, pursuant to law, the fiscal year 2017 annual report on the Regional Defense Combating Terrorism Fellowship Program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3837. A communication from the Director of Defense Pricing and Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Trade Agreements Thresholds" ((RIN0750-AJ65) (DFARS Case 2018-D001)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2017; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3838. A communication from the Assistant to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulatory Capital Rules: Retention of Certain Existing Transition Provisions for Banking Organizations That Are Not Subject to the Advanced Approaches Capital Rules" (RIN7100-AE83) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 15, 2017; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3839. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Suspension of Community Eligibility (New Jersey: Beverly, City of, Burlington County, et al.)" ((44 CFR Part 64) (Docket No. FEMA-2017-0002)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2017; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3840. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division,

Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amine salty of styrene acrylic polymer, ammonium salt: Tolerance Exemption" (FRL No. 9970-89) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2017; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3841. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Worker Safety and Health Program" (RIN1992-AA55) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2017; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3842. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Finding of Failure to Submit a Section 110 State Implementation Plan for Interstate Transport for the 2012 Annual National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Fine Particles; Massachusetts" (FRL No. 9972-39-Region 1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3843. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Texas; Reasonably Available Control Technology for Volatile Organic Compound Emissions in the Dallas-Fort Worth Ozone Nonattainment Area" (FRL No. 9972-00-Region 6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3844. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval of California Air Plan Revisions; Anti-Idling Regulations" (FRL No. 9972-49-Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3845. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Louisiana; Regional Haze State Implementation Plan" (FRL No. 9971-85-Region 6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3846. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Arkansas; Revisions to the Definitions for Arkansas Plan of Implementation for Air Pollution Control: Volatile Organic Compounds" (FRL No. 9971-86-Region 6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3847. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Wisconsin; 2017 Revisions to NR 400 and 406; Withdrawal of Direct Final Rule" (FRL No. 9972-32-Region 5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3848. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division,