

medicine. His continued efforts “serving the underserved and promoting a healthier Arkansas” will help improve countless lives and communities.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Dr. Stowers on this honor and thank him for dedicating his career to providing outstanding care and service to all patients. We can be tremendously proud of his accomplishments and look forward to his further contributions and leadership.●

#### TRIBUTE TO GENO MARTINI

● Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I come forward today to recognize the mayor of the city of Sparks, Geno Martini, who, after years of dedicated service, announced his retirement this year.

Mayor Martini was born on January 19, 1946, in Reno. Three days later, he returned to his family’s home in Sparks and has never left the city since. Every day during his childhood, he would walk to school down an old dirt road and even played Little League baseball where Sparks City Hall now stands. He was student body president and graduated from Sparks High School and the University of Nevada, going on to work in the banking industry for three decades.

Both Mayor Martini and Sparks have come a long way since his childhood days. That old dusty road he walked down is now Prater Way, one of the main routes connecting Sparks’ established neighborhoods with new shopping, entertainment, and business opportunities on the east side of the city. Downtown Sparks is benefitting from private investment and revitalization that is also helping address the region’s housing shortage. The success of these projects and the benefits they bring to the city of Sparks are due in no small part to the hard work and leadership of Mayor Martini.

In 1998, Martini left the banking industry to serve on the Sparks City Council until 2005. He was then elected mayor serving full terms in 2006, 2010, and 2014, making him the longest serving mayor of Sparks in the city’s history. He has gone above and beyond his mayoral duties and served on the Truckee Meadows Water Authority Board of Directors, the Nevada League of Cities and Municipalities, the Board of Directors Regional Planning Governing Board, the Western Regional Water Commission, and the City of Sparks Legislative Team.

Mayor Martini’s commitment to the city of Sparks extended to all of its residents. He performed community service in underserved communities and passed out Thanksgiving turkeys to those in need. At the same time, he helped bring opportunity to northern Nevada by paving the way for new businesses and development around the Sparks Marina, Legends Mall, and Victorian Avenue. Mayor Martini has guided the city of Sparks through both tumultuous economic times and the

area’s highest growth periods. During his tenure, Sparks has seen an additional 1 million square feet of retail space open for business.

It is no wonder that Mayor Martini has been repeatedly recognized for his leadership, receiving the 2017 Citizen of the Year Award from the Reno Gazette Journal, the 2016 Public Official of the Year from the Nevada League of Cities and Municipalities, the Citizen of the Year Award and Lifetime Achievement Award from the Sparks Chamber, and was inducted into the Junior Achievement Business Hall of Fame, as well as numerous other accolades that recognize his commitment to serving the people of Sparks.

In 2012, Mayor Martini was diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease. Despite these challenging circumstances, he has never wavered in his commitment to public service and the people of Sparks. He won reelection in 2014 and steadfastly served out his entire term, cementing his legacy as a genuine public servant committed to pragmatic governance and hard work.

Today, I celebrate the many contributions of Mayor Martini to the city of Sparks and to the northern Nevada community. His service is as an example to all of us who wish to know, serve, and better our communities.●

#### REMEMBERING REVEREND BERTHA L. GIVENS

● Mr. SCOTT. Mr. President, today I would like to take a moment to recognize and honor the life of Rev. Bertha L. Givens, a great South Carolinian, who departed this life on September 22, 2018. Reverend Givens was a well-respected and universally loved leader of her local Green Pond community, as well as Colleton County as a whole.

Reverend Givens served as a supportive and devoted matriarch not only to her husband of 48 years, her children, and extended family, but also to dozens of foster children and children in the community over the years. Additionally, Reverend Givens was known to provide counsel and comfort to each and every member of the community who came to her, and countless individuals benefitted from her wisdom, gentle voice, and unflinching faith.

As a reverend, she lived a life of impeccable integrity in ministry. She served for many years as a class leader and associate pastor at Mt. Olive A.M.E. in Green Pond, worked in prison outreach ministry, and took on many other positions of church leadership. She also founded the major community outreach program, Harvest Day, which gives away produce and preserves, as well as teaches God’s word to members of the community. She did this for over 30 years, desiring no fanfare or recognition, which only highlights her strong Christian devotion and conviction.

Reverend Givens will surely be missed by all of those that had the pleasure to know her and in the Green

Pond community especially. Her life and legacy provide an example of true Christian selflessness and spirit to all.●

#### TRIBUTE TO JAMES “JIM” FRENCH

● Mr. SCOTT. Mr. President, I would like to wish Mr. James “Jim” French of Charleston, SC, a happy 92nd birthday.

Mr. French, a committed, passionate, and award-winning journalist, served as a U.S. Navy chief journalist for 26 years. After retiring, he founded the Charleston Chronicle in 1971. His work at the Charleston Chronicle, focused on offering solutions for problems within the African-American community and successfully led to the paper receiving hundreds of awards from organizations throughout the Lowcountry and Nation.

Mr. French’s legacy will forever be defined not just by his work and service, but by all of the many people he has touched in the Charleston community.

I would like to recognize Mr. French for his service to our country and our amazing State; he truly represents the very best of South Carolina.

Happy 92nd birthday, Mr. French. May God bless you.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Ridgway, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

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

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

##### ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2017, the Secretary of the Senate, on October 12, 2018, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MESSER) had signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 3021. An act to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to provide for water pollution control activities, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6. An act to provide for opioid use disorder prevention, recovery, and treatment, and for other purposes.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2017, the enrolled bills were signed on October 12,