

University. Paul enlisted in the Army in 2000, rose through the enlisted ranks to sergeant first class, and received his commission in 2008.

Most recently, Paul served as the Army legislative fellow on my staff, and for the Honorable Senator Thad Cochran prior to that. His operational experience in Africa and the Middle East, in addition to his technical expertise in special operations, medical logistics, and combat medical care, have been pivotal in helping to shape Department of Defense appropriations for fiscal years 2018 and 2019.

He has served the State of Mississippi and the Nation admirably. The staff and I have enjoyed the benefit of Paul's counsel and have truly enjoyed working with him. Paul's leadership has brought great credit to the army, and I appreciate and commend his commitment to continue to serve our Nation.

It is a pleasure to recognize and thank MAJ Paul V. Bankston for his exceptional service to our country. My staff and I extend our gratitude to Paul and his family for their sacrifices and service to the Nation, and we wish him well as he takes the next step in his admirable career.●

TRIBUTE TO STEPHEN "SKI" SUCHARSKI

● Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the tremendous service of Stephen "Ski" Sucharski, who joined our staff as a Brookings Fellow this year. Ski's expertise in defense, veterans, and homeland security issues was invaluable, helping to ensure we met the needs of constituents throughout our great State of Maryland. Ski came to our office with a wealth of policy knowledge from his civilian work at the Department of Defense and his many years serving our country in the U.S. Army. Ski's years of service enhanced our office in many ways, perhaps most notably in veterans affairs. I am particularly grateful to Ski for his dedication to improving services for veterans in our State and across our Nation. Ski's generosity, willingness to pitch in wherever needed, and sense of humor made him a great colleague and terrific staffer in my office. We owe him a debt of gratitude, and we will miss him greatly. My whole staff and I wish him well as he embarks on his next journey in service to our country.●

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

At 12:20 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 1050. An act to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the Chinese-American Veterans of World War II, in recognition of their dedicated service during World War II.

S. 2101. An act to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the crew of the USS *Indianapolis*, in recognition of their perseverance, bravery, and service to the United States.

S. 3170. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to make certain changes to the reporting requirement of certain service providers regarding child sexual exploitation visual depictions, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 887. An act to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to extend honorary citizenship to otherwise qualified noncitizens who enlisted in the Philippines and died while serving on active duty with the United States Armed Forces during certain periods of hostilities, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2315. An act to posthumously award the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to Glen Doherty, Tyrone Woods, J. Christopher Stevens, and Sean Smith, in recognition of their contributions to the Nation.

H.R. 6219. An act to support the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Georgia, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that House has passed the following bill, with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 2736. An act to develop a long-term strategic vision and a comprehensive, multifaceted, and principled United States policy for the Indo-Pacific region, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 6964) to reauthorize and improve the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The message further announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 2454. An act to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish a data framework to provide access for appropriate personnel to law enforcement and other information of the Department, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1918. An act to oppose loans at international financial institutions for the Government of Nicaragua unless the Government of Nicaragua is taking effective steps to hold free, fair, and transparent elections, and for other purposes.

S. 3237. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at

120 12th Street Lobby in Columbus, Georgia, as the "Richard W. Williams, Jr., Chapter of the Triple Nickles (555th P.I.A.) Post Office".

S. 3209. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 413 Washington Avenue in Belleville, New Jersey, as the "Private Henry Svehla Post Office Building".

S. 825. An act to provide for the conveyance of certain property to the Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium located in Sitka, Alaska, and for other purposes.

S. 2465. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize a sickle cell disease prevention and treatment demonstration program and to provide for sickle cell disease research, surveillance, prevention, and treatment.

S. 3029. An act to revise and extend the Prematurity Research Expansion and Education for Mothers who deliver Infants Early Act (PREEMIE Act).

S. 3119. An act to allow for the taking of sea lions on the Columbia River and its tributaries to protect endangered and threatened species of salmon and other nonlisted fish species.

H.R. 3996. An act to amend title 28, United States Code, to permit other courts to transfer certain cases to United States Tax Court.

H.R. 1872. An act to promote access for United States diplomats and other officials, journalists, and other citizens to Tibetan areas of the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5759. An act to improve executive agency digital services, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

At 1:07 p.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. 3749. An act to amend the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 to reform the procedures provided under such Act for the initiation, review, and resolution of claims alleging that employing offices of the legislative branch have violated the rights and protections provided to their employees under such Act, including protections against sexual harassment, 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. 887. An act to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to extend honorary citizenship to otherwise qualified noncitizens who enlisted in the Philippines and died while serving on active duty with the United States Armed Forces during certain periods of hostilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 2315. An act to posthumously award the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to Glen Doherty, Tyrone Woods, J. Christopher Stevens, and Sean Smith in recognition of their contributions to the Nation; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 6219. An act to support the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Georgia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

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