

these children and the work of Families in Transition.

On behalf of New Hampshire I thank Families in Transition, its staff, volunteers, and supporters for their determination to serve Granite Staters in need.●

#### TRIBUTE TO RICHARD E. WRIGHT

● Mrs. SHAHEEN. Madam President, I wish to honor Chief Richard E. Wright for his lifelong commitment to the New Hampshire fire service. Chief Wright retired in June after committing 70 years of his life to the safety of Granite State residents. Through seven decades, he served as a soldier, a firefighter, the fire chief for the town of Loudon, and as the chief coordinator for the Capital Area Mutual Aid Compact.

Chief Wright's service to the fire department began when he was only 11 years old. His paper route included the Central Fire Station and the fire chief's home. Soon, he became a fixture at the station, and his helpfulness earned him the unofficial title of "Errand Boy Number One."

Upon graduating from Concord High School in 1950, he worked for the Rumford Press. Then he served his country, enlisting in the U.S. Army in 1953. After a 2-year tour of duty in Germany, he returned to New Hampshire as a sergeant.

Although Chief Wright had left the Army, his life of service had only just begun. He joined the Concord Fire Department call force in 1957 and then became a full-time firefighter in 1963. Soon Chief Wright was using his skills to manage the Concord department's budget and handle administrative tasks.

Through his instinct for business and management, Chief Wright helped to create the Capital Area Mutual Aid Fire Compact in 1965. To this day, the Mutual Aid Compact enables Concord and surrounding localities to share resources to fund their fire departments efficiently, saving taxpayer dollars.

In 1970 he left full-time fire service to run his family business, Wright Communications, although he continued to serve as a volunteer firefighter in Concord for several years. Then in 1973 he was appointed chief coordinator of the Mutual Aid Compact and became full-time coordinator in 1989. In addition to this position, he worked with the Loudon Fire Department, serving as their fire chief for 12 years.

Chief Wright retired from his role as Mutual Aid Compact coordinator on June 14, 2014. Throughout his career, he has responded to fires and calls from across central New Hampshire 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. He has coordinated resources in order to address major emergencies and keep Granite State residents safe.

Chief Wright's service to New Hampshire is truly remarkable. I congratulate him on his retirement and thank him for his lifetime of dedication to our great State.●

#### HELENA, MONTANA SESQUICENTENNIAL

● Mr. WALSH. Madam President, I wish to recognize Helena, MT, on the occasion of its 150th birthday. Our capital city, which I am privileged to call home, continues to contribute to the State of Montana and our Nation.

Four prospectors came to Montana territory looking for gold in the 1860s, and they struck it rich when they discovered gold in the creek that now runs under Helena's main street. They named the area Last Chance Gulch. When news of the site spread, thousands of other migrants flooded the area, hoping to find success. To care for the growing mining population, shops, hotels, and saloons sprang up, and a small city began to grow.

That settlement was officially named Helena on October 30, 1864.

Unlike other mining towns, Helena prospered after the gold rush ended. Since it was near major roads and surrounded by fertile farmland, Helena continued to thrive throughout the 20th century.

Helena has been an integral part of our State since before Montana became part of the United States—the city was named the capital of Montana territory in 1875, 14 years before Montana joined the Union.

The very first special forces unit of our Nation's military was based at Fort Harrison, just outside of Helena.

Today, Helena continues to flourish. Thousands of visitors come each year to hike scenic paths, tackle nationally-rated mountain bike trails, ski the slopes in Great Divide Ski area, enjoy the view of the Sleeping Giant, and drink great local beers.

As Montana's capital, Helena is the center of the State government, and public servants continue to tackle today's tough issues and work to create a better Montana and country for all of us.

I want to congratulate Helena for its contributions to our State and our Nation. We look forward to the next 150 years being as exciting as the last.●

I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### POINT OF ORDER—S.2648

The PRESIDING OFFICER. For the information of the Senate, pursuant to section 312 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, a 306 point of order having been sustained on S. 2648, the bill was referred to the Committee on Appropriations. All amendments thereto fell and the cloture motion thereon has been rendered moot.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF JOHN FRANCIS TEFFT, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

NOMINATION OF LAURA JUNOR TO BE A PRINCIPAL DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Mr. PRYOR. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider and vote on Calendar Nos. 968 and 868; that if any nomination is confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nomination; that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

#### VOTE ON TEFFT NOMINATION

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of John Francis Tefft, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Russian Federation?

The nomination was confirmed.

#### VOTE ON JUNOR NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Hearing no further debate, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Laura Junor, of Virginia, to be a Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense?

The nomination was confirmed.

Mr. PRYOR. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nominations: Calendar Nos: 980, 981, 982, 983, with the exception of BG Eric C. Bush, 984, 985, with the exception of COL Marta Carcana, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, and all nominations placed on the Secretary's desk in the Air Force, Army, and Navy; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc; the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to any of the nominations; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

#### IN THE AIR FORCE

The following Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212: