

the United States Military Academy in 1961. Bob lived in Alaska in the mid-1970s, when Bob's father was stationed at Fort Wainwright. While Bob has spent the last 27 years serving his country both at home and abroad, he has always maintained his Alaskan residence and remains the son of a proud Alaska family. In fact, both Bob and his father travel to Cordova, AK, every summer to spend time on the family boat, fishing and enjoying "the last frontier."

BG Bob Harter is the incoming director of the Office, Chief Army Reserve, OCAR, Staff. He was previously assigned to the Army's chief of staff transition team, where he provided a total force perspective for GEN Mark Milley, the newly assigned chief of staff of the Army. As the director of the OCAR Staff, Brigadier General Harter will be responsible for synchronizing the actions of the 400-person Army Reserve headquarters based out of Fort Belvoir, VA, in support of the chief of Army Reserve's priorities.

A graduate of Virginia Tech, Brigadier General Harter began his military career in 1988 as an artillery officer, assigned to the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, ACR, in Bad Hersfeld, Germany.

While assigned to the 11th ACR, Brigadier General Harter participated in multiple border security missions prior to the fall of the Berlin Wall and German reunification. Colonel Harter also deployed with the regiment to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait in support of Operation Desert Storm.

Upon returning from Desert Storm, Colonel Harter transferred to the Ordnance Corps and was reassigned to Fort Campbell, KY, where he served as a group maintenance officer; battalion operations officer, S3; and as commander, 584th Direct Support, DS, Maintenance Company.

In 1999, Brigadier General Harter transferred from the Active component to the Reserve component, entered the Active Guard and Reserve program, and was assigned to the 99th Regional Readiness Command in Pittsburgh, PA, as a training chief for a readiness team, with a follow on assignment to the 55th Sustainment Brigade, Fort Belvoir, as the brigade support operations officer.

In 2006, Brigadier General Harter transferred to the 316th Expeditionary Sustainment Command and, in 2007, deployed to Balad, Iraq, for one year. While in Iraq, Brigadier General Harter served as the 316th's distribution management chief, responsible for synchronizing logistics support to the more than 150,000 military members operating in Iraq.

Upon redeployment from Iraq, Brigadier General Harter attended the National War College at Fort McNair, Washington, DC, and was subsequently assigned as branch chief in the Force Protection Division, J8, of the Joint Staff. While in the J8, Brigadier General Harter was responsible for vetting

the mine-resistant ambush protected, MRAP, and counter improvised explosive device requirements in support of Central Command, CENTCOM, operations.

In 2011, Brigadier General Harter became the executive officer for the chief, Army Reserve, and, in 2013, assumed duties as the Office, Chief Army Reserve assistant chief of staff.

Brigadier General Harter's awards include the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, and the parachutist and air assault badges. Brigadier General Harter is a graduate of the National War College. He lives in Stafford, VA, with his wife, Erin, also a Virginia Tech graduate, and his three children: Anna, 20, currently a sophomore at the University of Virginia; Bobby, 16; and Jack, 14.

It is only fair and proper to acknowledge the unwavering support of his wife, Erin, and their three children, as they enabled him to work tirelessly on his assigned duties throughout his career and will undoubtedly continue to do so for many years to come. Let us thank them all for their sacrifices and wish them continued success in the future.●

#### TRIBUTE TO REVEREND SCOTT FISHER

● Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, this weekend the interior Alaska community will honor the Rev. Scott Fisher, the rector and senior pastor of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in downtown Fairbanks on the occasion of his retirement. St. Matthew's is not just any church. It is one of the three oldest churches in Fairbanks, a beautiful log building overlooking the Chena River. It is a diverse congregation, the spiritual home of the Athabascan community of interior Alaska. And Scott Fisher is not just any pastor. All who know Scott would agree that he reflects all that is good and all that is holy. Easy to talk to and calming in manner, Scott is respected by people of all faiths for his strength, compassion, and humanity.

There is an old plaque on the door of St. Matthew's that reads: "To all who are joyful and thankful—to all who mourn and need comfort—to all who are weary and need rest—to all who are friendless and wish friendship—to all who pray and to all who do not but ought—to all who sin and need a Savior and to whosoever will—this church opens wide the door and in the name of Christ the Lord says welcome." And under Scott Fisher's leadership, that was so. This is a church where newcomers feel welcome immediately.

The Rev. Scott Fisher has served as rector of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church since June 1991. He arrived in Alaska, through the legendary Bishop William Jones Gordon, Jr., as a volunteer layworker in October 1970 and lived in the interior villages of Chalkyitsik, Stevens Village, and Bea-

ver before leaving for seminary under Bishop Gordon's direction in the summer of 1973. Receiving his M.Div. from the Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest, in Austin, TX, he returned to the interior of Alaska, working for the church in Fort Yukon and Beaver before moving into the diocesan office. He was an assistant to the bishop, traveling and working extensively throughout the interior and Arctic coast, before coming to St. Matthew's in the summer of 1991.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Rev. Scott Fisher for the powerful contribution he has made to life in interior Alaska and to wish him well in retirement. I know that I speak for the entire community in telling you that your departure leaves a large hole in our hearts, and we shall miss you.●

#### CONGRATULATING BEATRIZ R. PEREZ

● Mr. PERDUE. Mr. President, I would like to offer congratulations to Ms. Beatriz R. Perez, chief sustainability officer and vice president of the Coca-Cola Company and the winner of the Canadian-American Business Achievement Award. For more than 20 years, the Canadian American Business Achievement award has highlighted the deep relationship between the United States and Canada, the importance of free trade between the countries, and recognized individuals who have been leaders in their fields of enterprise.

Ms. Perez has served in her current role at Coca-Cola since 2011. Previously, she helped direct major marketing operations for the Atlanta-based beverage giant. In addition to her work at Coke, Ms. Perez spends a great deal of time giving back to the Atlanta community as a trustee for the Save the Children Foundation and a board member for Children's Healthcare of Atlanta.

At Coca-Cola, working with the company's top leaders and nonprofits from around the world, Ms. Perez directs efforts that seek to build cooperation in the "golden triangle of government, business and civil society." Ms. Perez is working with local governments around the world to continue the company's stewardship of natural resources through the development of water projects in nearly 100 countries, working with communities to advance and empower economic opportunities for women, and continuing the company's efforts in the distribution of more than 10 billion fully recyclable PlantBottle™ packages across 24 countries, which eliminates the need for the equivalent of more than 200,000 barrels of oil.

In 2014, Ms. Perez was named as one of the 10 Most Powerful Women in Sustainability by Green Building & Design magazine. She has been featured as one of the 25 Most Powerful Latinas on CNN en Espanol and in People en Espanol, and is a member of the American Advertising Hall of Achievement

and the Sports Business Journal's Hall of Fame. Ms. Perez earned her bachelor's degree in Marketing from the University of Maryland and currently resides in Atlanta, GA.

I applaud Ms. Perez's efforts and am proud to have her and the Coca-Cola Company call Georgia home.●

#### TRIBUTE TO BETTY RUSSELL VANDIVER

● Mr. PERDUE. Mr. President, I am pleased today to recognize Betty Russell Vandiver, wife of former Gov. Ernest Vandiver, who served as first lady of Georgia from 1959 to 1963. When Mrs. Vandiver became first lady, Central State Hospital in Milledgeville served as Georgia's only State hospital for the mentally ill and developmentally disabled. In the late 1950s, Central State Hospital was home to more than 12,000 clients, many of whom had been abandoned by their families at an early age.

Upon visiting the hospital, Mrs. Vandiver became very concerned about the plight of the clients and their living conditions. She determined that she would devote much of her time and energy as first lady to raise public awareness of the needs of Georgia's mentally ill and developmentally disabled.

One of Mrs. Vandiver's initiatives to show care and concern for the clients at Central State Hospital was to work with the Georgia Municipal Association to create a statewide Christmas gift collection drive known as the Mayors' Motorcade, which was established in 1959 and expanded years later to support the clients of the State's regional hospitals. Each year, caring Georgians support the Mayors' Motorcade by donating gifts to cities participating in the program.

Through Mrs. Vandiver's efforts, thousands of clients residing at Georgia's State hospitals have received Christmas gifts and visits from city officials at special Motorcade events.

Today it is my pleasure to honor Mrs. Vandiver for having the vision to create the program as a way of providing not only gifts but also raising public awareness about the needs of Georgia's mentally ill and developmentally disabled.●

#### REMEMBERING CHIEF VERNON ASHLEY

● Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, I wish to commemorate and reflect on the life and legacy of Vernon Ashley who passed away on November 10, 2015.

Vernon Ashley was born on January 15, 1916, at the mouth of Wolf Creek along the banks of the Missouri River near present day Fort Thompson, SD. In 1946, after serving in the Army Air Corps during World War II, Vernon was elected tribal chairman of the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe. As chairman, he was credited both with helping to author the tribe's first constitution and bylaws and for working to preserve

tribal lands for his people during the Federal Government's flood control projects of the 1940s and 50s. He was a servant to his people of the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe and to his fellow South Dakotans. After nearly 10 years of working for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Vernon went to work for South Dakota as the first Indian Affairs coordinator, serving in that role under three different Governors. He was a fluent Dakota speaker whose Dakota name was Sinkpe, which means muskrat. This past July, the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe honored him by making him a chief.

The eagle bone whistle was traditionally used by some Plains Indian warrior societies. When Vernon and his fellow veterans were honored at his memorial services, several people heard the sound of the eagle bone whistle even though no one was playing one. Therefore, may the sound of the eagle bone whistle be with us, too, when we need to be inspired to be brave and do what is right for the people we serve.

Chief Vernon Ashley will be remembered by all for his humility, for being a man of faith, and for his friendship to so many. With this, I welcome the opportunity to recognize and commemorate the life and legacy of this good friend of mine, a great leader, Chief Vernon Ashley. Thank you.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, 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

##### ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 11:45 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 2262. An act to facilitate a pro-growth environment for the developing commercial space industry by encouraging private sector investment and creating more stable and predictable regulatory conditions, and for other purposes.

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

At 12:05 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 bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1210. An act to amend the Truth in Lending Act to provide a safe harbor from certain requirements related to qualified mortgages for residential mortgage loans held on an originating depository institution's portfolio, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1737. An act to nullify certain guidance of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection and to provide requirements for guidance issued by the Bureau with respect to indirect auto lending.

##### ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 12:18 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 2036. An act to suspend the current compensation packages for the chief executive officers of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, and for other purposes.

H.R. 208. An act to improve the disaster assistance programs of the Small Business Administration.

H.R. 639. An act to amend the Controlled Substances Act with respect to drug scheduling recommendations by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and with respect to registration of manufacturers and distributors seeking to conduct clinical testing.

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

##### ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 2:22 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 3996. An act to provide an extension of Federal-aid highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

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

At 2:33 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 bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 4038. An act to require that supplemental certifications and background investigations be completed prior to the admission of certain aliens as refugees, and for other purposes.

##### ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH) reported that he had signed the following enrolled bill, which was previously signed by the Speaker of the House:

S. 799. An act to address problems related to prenatal opioid use.

At 2:45 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 95. Concurrent resolution providing for a conditional adjournment of the House of Representatives and a conditional recess or adjournment of the Senate.