

women and children. To become a member of the team, Staff Sergeant Kaelin endured intense fitness training and psychological testing. After successfully finishing training, she became the first and only woman from the Nevada National Guard to join a CST. Staff Sergeant Kaelin earned a Combat Action Badge for her service in this role. Her sacrifice in defending our freedoms is invaluable.

In May of 2012, Staff Sergeant Kaelin returned to the United States, and she is currently finishing her military career in the Inactive Ready Reserves. Since returning from deployment, she has dedicated her time to a new mission to help others returning home from service. Specifically, she has been fighting to assist women veterans and their children who are homeless. She has become a powerful voice on behalf of female veterans, and I am thankful for all that she has done for our country and the State of Nevada. She is now running for Ms. Veteran America for 2016 in her endeavors to increase awareness for female veterans. I wish her the best of luck in this competition.

I extend my deepest gratitude to Staff Sergeant Kaelin for her courageous contributions to our Nation. Her unwavering dedication to her career is commendable, and she stands as a shining example for future generations of heroes. Staff Sergeant Kaelin's service to her country and her bravery earn her a place among the outstanding men and women who have valiantly defended our Nation.

As a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, I recognize Congress has a responsibility not only to honor the brave individuals who serve our Nation, but also to ensure they are cared for when they return home. Equally as important, it is crucial that female servicemembers and veterans have access to their specific health care needs. There are countless distinguished women who have made sacrifices beyond measure and deserve nothing but the best treatment. I remain committed to upholding this promise for our veterans and servicemembers in Nevada and throughout the Nation and will continue to fight until this becomes a reality.

Throughout her tenure, Staff Sergeant Kaelin has demonstrated professionalism, commitment to excellence, and dedication to the highest standards of the U.S. Army. I am both humbled and honored by her service and am proud to have had someone from the Nevada National Guard serve our Nation in such a significant role. Today I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Staff Sergeant Kaelin for all of her accomplishments and wish her well in her future endeavors.●

REMEMBERING ANNE PERSHING

● Mr. HELLER. Madam President, today we honor the life and legacy of Anne Pershing, whose passing signifies

a great loss to Nevada. I send my condolences and prayers to her family and friends during this time of difficulty. Ms. Pershing was an upstanding Nevadan, committed to bringing journalistic excellence to the Fallon community. She will be sorely missed by the entire Nevada family.

Ms. Pershing was raised in Bushnell, IL, and moved to the Silver State over 30 years ago. She received her bachelor's degree in speech communications, in addition to studying journalism, at the University of Nevada, Reno, UNR. In 1983, she started her professional career working for the Lahontan Valley News as a general assignment reporter. By 1987, she had successfully climbed the ladder and was chosen to serve as editor of the newspaper and, later, as general manager.

During her tenure, Ms. Pershing went above and beyond in her role to become acquainted with the city of Fallon and its residents, embodying what it means to be a true community journalist. Throughout the late 1990s, Ms. Pershing and her team covered the child leukemia cluster that greatly affected the local community, gaining national attention for her work on the breaking story. Ms. Pershing and her team were later recognized for their efforts by being nominated for the Pulitzer Prize in Public Service and were honored in 2002 with an Associated Press Public Service Award. Ms. Pershing stands as a role model to the Nevada journalism community with her commendable and reliable reporting. We will always remember her resilient spirit in shining light on issues important to our State.

In 2004, Ms. Pershing moved on to work for the Star Press, a small weekly newspaper in Fallon, and after this newspaper ceased publication, she continued writing as a contributing columnist for the publication at the School of Medicine at UNR. In 2008, she was inducted into the Nevada Press Association Hall of Fame for all of her efforts. Ms. Pershing spent her final journalistic years writing in her weekly newspaper column about the most important issues affecting Nevada's senior population. Throughout her decades of service to Nevada journalism, Ms. Pershing demonstrated unwavering dedication to bringing Nevadans truthful and insightful news coverage. She was truly one-of-a-kind in her endeavors to support her local community. Her legacy of kindness, loyalty, and drive will echo on for years to come.

For over 30 years, Ms. Pershing served as a tremendous contributor to Nevada journalism. Her commitment to the Silver State will never be forgotten. Today I join the Fallon community and citizens of the Silver State to celebrate the life of an honorable Nevadan, Ms. Anne Pershing.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to

the Senate by Mr. Pate, 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.)

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-5425. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendments to the Definitions of 'Portfolio Reconciliation' and 'Material Terms' for Purposes of Swap Portfolio Reconciliation" (RIN3038-AE17) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 11, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5426. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Review Group, Commodity Credit Corporation, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) Program; Portable Storage Facilities and Reduced Down Payment for FSFL Microloans" (RIN0560-AI35) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 11, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5427. A communication from the Administrator, Rural Housing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Single Family Housing Guarantee Loan Program" ((7 CFR Part 3555) (RIN0575-AD04)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 13, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5428. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a violation of the Antideficiency Act that involved fiscal years 2003 through 2012 Operations and Maintenance, Army National Guard, and was assigned case number 12-07; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-5429. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of an officer authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of brigadier general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5430. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of General Frank Gorenc, United States Air Force, and his advancement to the grade of general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5431. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of an officer authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of rear admiral (lower half) in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.