

work and vision have paved the way for significant advancements in the protection and management of our State's rich wildlife and natural habitats. Under his guidance and vision, the commission has flourished, becoming a beacon of excellence and innovation in the field of conservation.

Bobby has been a leader in State and national conservation work, including helping Congress pass the landmark America's Conservation Enhancement Act to safeguard wildlife and ecosystems. He was instrumental in building the coalitions critical to advancing this legislation and protecting our natural resources for future generations to enjoy. He also helped develop the concept and plans for a highly successful shooting sports complex in Jacksonville.

His contributions have also been invaluable in communicating the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's priorities so our congressional delegation could support its efforts with Federal Agencies. He has illustrated and led through example the importance of building consensus and working together for a common goal. His commitment to environmental education and outreach programs has fostered a sense of stewardship among Arkansans of all ages through initiatives such as promoting shooting sports in schools.

I am so pleased that Bobby has used his leadership skills for public service. He is acknowledged as one of the most influential people in the retail community and has used those skills to think outside the box regarding the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, making sure the agency evolves and keeps pace with an ever-changing public demand. Bobby has demonstrated that ability in the business world and the conservation community has benefited immensely as he has used his deep knowledge, passion, and experience on its behalf.

He demonstrates what it means to go above and beyond in his role. His time as chairman is esteemed across The Natural State for his tireless work to preserve Arkansas's beautiful natural scenery and wildlife. As we recognize Bobby's years of service and dedication to conservation and celebrate his vision protect and enhance our beautiful State for future generations, I thank him for his dedication and service to Arkansas and wish him the best for years to come.●

#### TRIBUTE TO LORI HOPPE

● Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today I have the distinct honor of recognizing Lori Hoppe of Park County for her dedication to fostering excellence in agricultural education and across Park County.

In 2013, Lori saw an opportunity to bring agricultural education to her hometown of Gardiner; a quaint gateway community to Yellowstone National Park with a population of 800 people. She established Gardiner High

School's first agriculture program and FFA chapter, which today proudly boasts a near 50-percent student body participation rate. The Gardiner FFA Chapter has consistently built a name for themselves as being fierce competitors; they are the first agricultural sales career development event team to not only champion the district contest, but also to qualify for the national convention.

As Gardiner FFA prepared for the national competition, their means of getting there was threatened when historic flooding impacted Park County. With a state of emergency declared and access to Yellowstone National Park halted, the lack of tourists required the cancellation of the local rodeo, with sales from the concession stand being the primary means of funding for Gardiner FFA's trip to the National FFA Convention and Expo.

Lori knew they needed to come up with a new fundraising idea if they wanted to compete at nationals. During the school year, the students built a utility trailer that they decided to try and sell at the Park County Fair. The community rallied behind the students and helped them raise more than five times their goal. The Gardiner FFA Chapter went on to make their community proud, earning a seventh place team finish, and one student placing third individually.

Now reaching her 10th year as an educator, Lori is receiving statewide recognition from the Montana Association of Agricultural Educators—MAAE—for being among the best ag instructors in the Treasure State. Her application will be forwarded on to the regional level where she will be evaluated alongside winners from other States. I am confident Lori will represent Montana well.

It is my distinct honor to recognize Lori Hoppe for her commitment to promoting agricultural education in Park County and throughout the Treasure State. The future of Montana agriculture is better off because of her tireless work.

Thank you, Lori. You make Montana proud.●

#### RECOGNIZING SWENSON'S DO IT BEST HARDWARE

● Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize Swenson's Do it Best Hardware of Britt, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

In 1977, 21-year-old Jon Swenson purchased the then-named Kreiting Hardware in downtown Britt. The store was renamed Swenson's Do it Best Hardware and has been family-owned and operated ever since. They offer both home and outdoor tools and supplies, including rental power tool

equipment. They can also provide pipe cutting, key cutting, and window or screen repair services in the shop. Swenson's Do it Best Hardware has an "online warehouse" of over 67,000 items and is a one-stop shop for all home improvement needs. In 2022, Swenson's Do it Best Hardware celebrated their 45th anniversary.

The team at Swenson's Do it Best Hardware is active in the Britt community. Jon Swenson has been a volunteer firefighter in the Britt Fire Department since 1978 and was named the fire chief in 2015. Additionally, and since 1974, Jon has filmed the football games at the West Hancock High School. Swenson's Do it Best Hardware has also been a sponsor of the high school's events and activities. In 2022, when RAGBRAI had a stop in Britt and Swenson's Do it Best Hardware's downtown storefront was used for photo opportunities for riders and tourists. They also provided a device charging station for the 2022 racers. They have also participated in Britt Chamber of Commerce events to support the local small business community.

Swenson's Do it Best Hardware's commitment to providing quality tools, equipment rentals, and repair services in northern Iowa is clear. I want to congratulate Jon Swenson and the entire team at Swenson's Do it Best Hardware for their continued dedication to providing home improvement supplies to Iowans. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success in Iowa.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

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

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

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2023, the Secretary of the Senate, on May 25, 2023, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the House has passed the following bill and joint resolution, without amendment:

S. 777. An act to increase, effective as of December 1, 2023, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

S.J. Res. 11. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of