

number of activities and hold an all-school reunion. Among the planned festivities are a “Dam Fun Run” at Balta Dam, an alumni basketball game, a parade, car show, street fair, pedal tractor pull, beer garden, and street dance. The activities should prove to be entertaining for all and a celebration of both the past and future of the town.

I ask the United States Senate to join me in congratulating the residents of Balta, ND, on their 100th anniversary and in wishing them a bright future. Growing up in Balta has shaped many generations of North Dakotans and instilled in them the “North Dakota Way,” bringing pride not only to North Dakota, but to our great Nation. This fine community is deserving of our recognition.

Balta has a proud past and a bright future.●

RECOGNIZING NEXSTRAPS

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, each year on the last Monday in May we, as a nation, remember those who gave their lives while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. Memorial Day is a chance to honor those who protect our freedom, giving others the opportunity to pursue the American dream. And it is our veteran entrepreneurs who know the sacrifices and struggles both of military service and of pursuing that dream firsthand. Today I rise to recognize and commend a family and veteran-owned small business that embodies the American entrepreneurial spirit, Nexstraps located in Blue Hill, ME.

For those who have had the pleasure to visit my home State, they know that it is blessed with an abundance of natural beauty. From the rugged wilderness of Mount Katahdin at the northern terminus of the Appalachian Trail, to the picturesque rivers and expansive forests, to the shores of Acadia National Park, Maine’s beauty is derived from the physical splendor of the land. Moreover, Maine’s great outdoors delivers a wealth of activities throughout every season. That is why Jeff and Kate Wright, who share a love of nature and believe life should be lived actively, outdoors, founded Nexstraps in 2007 based on those principles. Together with their family, they pursued a business plan and way of life that harmoniously marries their love of nature with creative and practical problem-solving products designed with an active lifestyle in mind.

In starting Nexstraps, necessity truly was the mother of creation. Jeff, a former Reconnaissance Marine and Navy Seal with tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan, was confronted with the simple challenge of holding on to his glasses during daily operations. With the goal of remedying this problem, Jeff and Kate endeavored to design and manufacture a solution. Unlike a conventional sports glasses strap that merely connects the two eyewear legs with a band behind the head, the

Nexstrap secures the glasses with a single band which serves as a tether looping from the legs of the frame, around the front of the neck, and meeting at a point behind the head. This unique design ensures that should the glasses become displaced over the head, they will remain leashed around the wearer’s neck. The strap can further be looped through a baseball cap, securing the hat as well. Handmade from neoprene, the Nexstrap is designed to withstand whatever challenge the extreme sportsman can throw at it, whether that is rock climbing, snowboarding, or base-jumping. They even float! This problem solving innovation is a perfect example of the ingenuity that is characteristic of Maine entrepreneurs.

I applaud Nexstraps for demonstrating the epitome of Maine innovation and entrepreneurship. The Wrights’ creativity and can-do attitude is truly a reflection of the talent and entrepreneurial spirit found in my home State of Maine. As we pay tribute to our servicemembers this coming Memorial Day, I offer my gratitude and congratulations to our Nation’s veteran-owned small business and extend my best wishes to Jeff and Kate Wright at Nexstraps for their continued success.●

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 3220. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes.

S. 3221. A bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to permit employers to pay higher wages to their employees.

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-6205. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Prohydrojasmon; Amendment of Temporary Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance” (FRL No. 9347-9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 17, 2012; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6206. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Natamycin; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance” (FRL No. 9349-2) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 17, 2012; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6207. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “1, 2-Ethanediamine, N1-(2-aminoethyl)-, polymer with 2, 4-diisocyanato-1-methylbenzene; Tolerance

Exemption” (FRL No. 9349-1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 17, 2012; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6208. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “2,6-Diisopropylnaphthalene (2,6-DIPN) and its metabolites and degradates; Pesticide Tolerances” (FRL No. 9350-4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 17, 2012; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6209. 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 and 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.

EC-6210. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Vice Admiral Richard K. Gallagher, United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of vice admiral on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6211. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “2012 Report to Congress on Sustainable Ranges”; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6212. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13405 with respect to Belarus; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6213. A communication from the Chairman of the Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Report to the Congress on the Profitability of Credit Card Operations of Depository Institutions”; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6214. A communication from the Chairman of the Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the 98th Annual Report of the Federal Reserve Board covering operations for calendar year 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6215. A communication from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the export to the People’s Republic of China of items not detrimental to the U.S. space launch industry; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6216. A communication from the Administrator, Transportation Security Administration, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting proposed legislation to authorize the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration) to modify screening requirements for checked baggage arriving from preclearance airports and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6217. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation in the position of Administrator, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 16, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6218. A communication from the Director, Office of Surface Mining, Department of