

However, it is good to note that this is not the end of Dr. Williamson's healthcare service. He will become the CEO and president of the Alabama Hospital Association in November. His tremendous knowledge of health care will continue to be a valuable resource to Alabama and to this critically important organization.

I have known this able, energetic leader for many years. I share the views of the great majority of health professionals that he is a treasure for Alabama and the Nation. No one was surprised and all were pleased when Governor Bentley asked him to take over as chairman of the Medicaid transition taskforce at a truly critical time. His reputation throughout the State, the awards he has received, and the sustained effort he has given for the betterment of the health of all Alabamians, especially the poor, truly sets him apart and makes him worthy of the highest accolades.

In light of these and all of his many accomplishments, I want to congratulate him on his outstanding career and to wish him the very best in his next important and challenging endeavor.●

RECOGNIZING DONG PHUONG BAKERY & RESTAURANT

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, Louisianians share a long history of triumph and resilience over hardship, and as a result, folks from all backgrounds pursue the American Dream with dedication and commitment. This is particularly true of the Vietnamese community and local small businesses in southeast Louisiana who came together to rebuild New Orleans East after Hurricane Katrina. In honor of National Women's Small Business Month, I am proud to recognize Dong Phuong Bakery & Restaurant of New Orleans, LA, as this week's Small Business of the Week.

Amidst an intense postwar political climate following the end of the Vietnam war, De and Huong Tran immigrated to the United States in 1980 in search of a more peaceful life and greater opportunities for their young family. The Trans and their three young children settled in an area with a fast-growing Vietnamese presence, the Versailles neighborhood of New Orleans. Shortly after settling into their new community, De enrolled at the University of New Orleans and found work at a local grocery store. Given De's busy class and work schedule, Huong cared for the young Tran children as they adjusted to their new home and culture. Searching for ways to reconnect with her beloved Vietnamese culture and provide extra income for her young family, Huong drew from her past working in her father's bakery in Vietnam and began baking a variety of Vietnamese delicacies, selling them to friends, family, and local shops in her community. Realizing they had a hit, Huong and De opened the Dong Phuong Oriental Bakery in

1981, selling traditional Vietnamese pastries and items with a French flair.

During the rebuilding process after Hurricane Katrina, De and Huong Tran provided support and hope to their community, and today the Dong Phuong Bakery & Restaurant remains in their original location in the Vietnamese neighborhood of Versailles, operating out of a 4,000-square-foot restaurant space. Now under the ownership of Huong Tran and Linh Tran Garza, the bakery continues to prepare and sell traditional French-Vietnamese cuisine, as well as their beloved fresh French bread to restaurants and customers across south Louisiana.

Congratulations again to Dong Phuong Bakery & Restaurant for being Small Business of The Week and to Huong and Linh for their praiseworthy entrepreneurial spirit and for setting an example for women entrepreneurs across the Nation.●

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH J. COX

● Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, it is with gratitude and appreciation that I congratulate Joseph J. Cox of Virginia on his retirement as president and chief executive officer of the Chamber of Shipping of America.

Upon graduating from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in 1967, Mr. Cox served honorably as a deck officer on commercial ships in the Vietnam war. He worked for 8 years at the U.S. Department of Labor in the Marine Standards Office. In 1981, he joined the Chamber of Shipping of America, the association of American ship owners, operators, and charterers. He rose to president and CEO and led the organization from 1997 until his retirement earlier this year.

Mr. Cox is widely respected as a valued representative of the American maritime community. He has actively advocated for domestic legislation and regulation to advance the interests of the shipping and maritime industry. He has participated in the development of transnational treaties at the International Maritime Organization and the International Labor Organization.

At the helm of the Chamber of Shipping of America, he elevated the nearly 100-year-old association to its respected status in the global maritime community. He will continue to serve as an adviser to the organization.

I thank Joe Cox for his decades of service to his country and to the marine trades, and I wish him and his family smooth sailing on the next leg of their voyage.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neimann, one of his secretaries.

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

NOTIFICATION OF THE PRESIDENT'S INTENT TO TERMINATE THE DESIGNATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI AS A BENEFICIARY SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN COUNTRY UNDER THE AFRICAN GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY ACT (AGOA), RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT OF THE SENATE ON OCTOBER 30, 2015—PM 31

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with section 506A(a)(3)(B) of the African Growth and Opportunity Act, as amended (AGOA) (19 U.S.C. 2466a(a)(3)(B)), I am providing notification of my intent to terminate the designation of the Republic of Burundi (Burundi) as a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country under AGOA.

I am taking this step because I have determined that the Government of Burundi has not established or is not making continual progress toward establishing the rule of law and political pluralism, as required by the AGOA eligibility requirements outlined in section 104 of the AGOA (19 U.S.C. 3703). In particular, the continuing crackdown on opposition members, which has included assassinations, extra-judicial killings, arbitrary arrests, and torture, have worsened significantly during the election campaign that returned President Nkurunziza to power earlier this year. In addition, the Government of Burundi has blocked opposing parties from holding organizational meetings and campaigning throughout the electoral process. Police and armed youth militias with links to the ruling party have intimidated the opposition, contributing to nearly 200,000 refugees fleeing the country since April 2015. Accordingly, I intend to terminate the designation of Burundi as a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country under AGOA as of January 1, 2016.

BARACK OBAMA,
THE WHITE HOUSE, October 30, 2015.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 6, 2015, the Secretary of the Senate, on November 2, 2015, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MESSER) had signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 623. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize the Department of Homeland Security to establish a social media working group, and for other purposes.