guidance and training, a generation of CBO analysts think harder, dig deeper, and ask more probing questions when analyzing the estimated the costs of legislation. Kim set high standards for himself and for the Natural Resources Unit, and we are confident that they will continue to provide timely and thorough analyses for the Congress thanks to what they have learned under Kim's leadership.

I, along with House Budget Committee Chairman JOHN YARMUTH, wish to thank Kim for his years of dedicated service to the Congress and extend to him our best wishes for a well-deserved retirement.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING RICHARD BENEVILLE

● Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the legacy of a friend and one of Alaska's truly unique individuals, the mayor of Nome, Richard Beneville. We lost the mayor last month when he succumbed to pneumonia in the town he called home for more than 32 years. Richard's life story was colorful. He left New York City as a young man struggling with alcoholism and searching for a new life. Alaska was as far away as he could go, and he often said Alaska saved him. He spent a few years in Barrow before moving to Nome in 1988, and I think it is fair to say that the town has never been the same since. His career began on Broadway, and Richard channeled his creative energy to inspire youth and adults in Nome through the Nome Arts Council. He directed more than three dozen plays, including ''The Sound of Music,'' ''Music Man,'' and ''Fiddler on the Roof,'' and inspired generations in the community to appreciate the stage.

Ever the showman, Richard was a tireless ambassador for Nome and Arctic tourism. He founded Nome Discovery Tours in 1994, and he never missed an opportunity to promote Nome and the surrounding region and its rich history. Watching him entertain a tour group with tales of Nome's early gold mining days, while he demonstrated how to pan for gold, audience captivated, was a real treasure.

For the past 4½ years, he served as mayor of Nome, and there was no better cheerleader for this remote community. Some of my colleagues may recall running into him in the halls of the Hart and Dirksen Buildings, wearing his signature ''Hello Central' knit hat, a Port of Nome, vest and always sporting his I love Nome! button. Never shy, Richard would greet Senators, staff, and visitors alike, quickly asking them how their day was and what they were up to as he worked the halls and made new friends. His friendly banter and genuine interest in people was refreshing in an environment all too often filled with hustle and tension.

For those of you who have never had the fortune to visit Nome, there are only three ways to get there from Anchorage—airplane, boat, and dog sled. Nome is 2000 miles closer to the North Pole than to New York City, and in 2016 when the *Crystal Serenity* called on the Port of Nome during its maiden voyage from Seward to Manhattan, the mayor was there to greet these intrepid Arctic adventurers. I had the privilege to travel with Richard to many Arctic conferences, and it was a joy to watch as he shared his vision for Arctic tourism and a positive future for this fascinating and challenging part of the world.

The mayor was a passionate champion of the Iditarod and I last saw him on Saturday, March 7, in Anchorage at the ceremonial start of the race. He had just been released from the hospital, having persuaded his doctors and nurses that the ''show must go on'' to be there for the festivities.

He loved people, the arts, flowers, and above all, Nome to the end. His passing is a true loss for my State. I will miss his boundless enthusiasm and his trademark greeting to all he ran into, ''Hello Central!''●

RECOGNIZING MERCEDES SCIENTIFIC

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, as chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize a small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit at the heart of our country. It is my privilege to recognize a woman-owned small business that provides critical medical supplies to hospitals and laboratories nationwide. This week, it is my pleasure to honor Mercedes Scientific of Lakewood Ranch, FL, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

In 1991, Noelle Haft and Hank Traynor founded Mercedes Scientific in New Hyde Park, NY. The two were veterans of the medical supply industry, combining their scientific expertise and knowledge of laboratory distribution to start their own small business. At the time, it was known as Mercedes Medical. Drawn by the weather and welcoming business regulations, Mercedes Medical relocated to Florida in 1993. When Hank retired, Noelle and her husband, Rob, continued running the company along with their daughter, Alex Miller.

Over the next few decades, Mercedes Medical remained a family-owned company as it grew into a notable medical supplier. The company moved into their Lakewood Ranch facility in 2018 and expanded to provide laboratory equipment and personal protective equipment, PPE. They rebranded as Mercedes Scientific in 2019 due to their growing focus on serving the research, laboratory, and scientific communities.

Mercedes Scientific is active in the community. They donate medical supplies to local organizations and businesses, as well as educational institutions nationwide. The company supports international nonprofit missions, such as helping medical facilities recover from natural disasters. Closer to home, Mercedes Scientific is a team build partner with Habitat for Humanity in Sarasota, FL. They also work with the Lakewood Ranch Business Alliance to promote local economic development.

Like many small businesses in Florida, Mercedes Scientific experienced supply chain disruptions due to the coronavirus pandemic. As a medical supply company, they play a critical role in securing laboratory supplies, PPE, and COVID–19 test kits. Mercedes Scientific works tirelessly with laboratories and hospitals in Florida and throughout the Nation to ensure they receive the resources needed to combat the pandemic.

When the U.S. Small Business Administration launched the Paycheck Protection Program, PPP, Mercedes Scientific applied for funding. The PPP provides forgivable loans to impacted small businesses and nonprofits who maintain their payroll during the COVID–19 pandemic. Thanks to a PPP loan, Mercedes Scientific was able to keep their 67 employees paid and remain focused on its mission sourcing medical supplies.

Mercedes Scientific is a notable example of the key role small businesses play in America's medical supply chains. I commend their continued work to provide essential hospital and laboratory supplies as the United States confronts the coronavirus pandemic. Congratulations to Noelle, Rob, Alex, and the whole team. I look forward to your continued success, growth, and success in the Lakewood Ranch area.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Ridgway, 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 Committee on Armed Services.

(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–4871. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the