

McDaniel," Rep. Amata Radewagen (R-American Samoa), former Puerto Rico Gov. Luis Fortuño, and Henry Barbour, the powerful Mississippi committeeman and nephew of the ex-governor.

-- **COMMERCE SECRETARY WILBUR ROSS** and his wife Hilary Geary Ross hosted their holiday party last night where "guests drank Champagne and feasted on shrimp, smoked salmon, regional cheeses and pigs in the blanket while admiring their hosts' extraordinary collection of art works by surrealist painter Rene Magritte", according to an attendee. **SPOTTED:** Attorney General and Mrs. Jeff Sessions, Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue, Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Louise Linton, Labor Secretary Alex Acosta, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, Jared Kushner and Ivanka Trump, Kellyanne Conway, Jane Stanton Hitchcock, Patty Hearst Shaw, Chris and Lorraine Wallace ...

... **David Rubenstein**, Rima Al-Sabah, Ashley Gunn, Ken Duberstein, Alexandra de Borchgrave, the ambassadors from Kuwait, Italy, Spain, Italy, Germany and Egypt, U.S. Amb. to France Jamie McCourt, U.S. Amb. to Spain Duke Buchan, Bill Nitze, Joan Fleischmann Tobin, Kevin Chaffee, Francesca Craig, Anita McBride, Lee Folger, John and JoAnn Mason, Buffy Cafritz, Ginny Ryan, Stuart and Wilma Bernstein and Tom Quinn, Rusty Powell, C. Boyden Gray, Susan Markey, James Rockas, Wendy Teramoto, Tom Barrack and his girlfriend Cio Soler, Reed and Maggie Cordish.

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## PLAYBOOK READS

**PHOTO DU JOUR:** Senator-elect Doug Jones and his wife Louise wave to his supporters at a watch party in Birmingham, Ala. on Dec. 12. Jones defeated Republican Roy Moore in a close special election. | John Bazemore/AP Photo

**NEW POLITICO/MORNING CONSULT POLL -- STEVEN SHEPARD: "Half of voters say sexual misconduct accusations against Trump are credible":** "Fifty percent of registered voters think the allegations against Trump are credible, more than the 29 percent who think they are not credible. The remaining 21 percent of voters don't know if the allegations are credible." <http://politi.co/2z7L1wH>

**SARAH KLEINER** in Politico Magazine: **"Veterans Charity Raises Millions to Help**

## **Those Who've Served. But Telemarketers Are Pocketing Most of It":**

<http://politi.co/2iZsRoc>

\*\*\*\*\* **A message from the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates:** Boeing is the preferred supplier for UAE commercial aviation requirements. Over the past 10 years, UAE customers have ordered \$150 billion in Boeing planes, supporting 781,000 jobs in the US and injecting billions of dollars into the US economy. In 2016, the US had a \$19 billion trade surplus with the UAE, America's third largest trade surplus globally.

<http://politi.co/2AtLDMj> \*\*\*\*\*

### **HMM -- "Trump's Stand-In Bureaucrats May Have Overstayed Limits,"**

Bloomberg's Josh Eidelson: "President Donald Trump's slow pace of hiring for key government jobs has left stand-ins occupying positions for so long that it may violate time limits on acting appointments, potentially resulting in decisions being overturned in court. Enforcement actions as well as policy decisions on a variety of topics, such as easing restrictions on methane emissions from oil wells or permitting schools to offer 1 percent milk, could be challenged on the grounds that they were enacted by officials who had been in acting roles too long or were improperly delegated authority."

<https://bloom.bg/2ylq6ma>

### **-- "Millions of People Post Comments on Federal Regulations. Many Are Fake,"**

by WSJ's James V. Grimaldi and Paul Overberg: "A comment posted on the Federal Communications Commission's public docket endorses a Trump-administration plan to repeal a 'net neutrality' policy requiring internet providers to treat all web traffic the same. Calling the old Obama-era policy an 'exploitation of the open Internet,' the comment was posted on June 2 by Donna Duthie of Lake Bluff, Ill. It's a fake. Ms. Duthie died 12 years ago. The Wall Street Journal has uncovered thousands of other fraudulent comments on regulatory dockets at federal agencies, some using what appear to be stolen identities posted by computers programmed to pile comments onto the dockets." <http://on.wsj.com/2z6sKjq>

**VALLEY TALK -- GOOGLE'S TOP SEARCHES** in the U.S. this year: Hurricane Irma, Matt Lauer, Tom Petty, Super Bowl, Las Vegas Shooting, Mayweather vs McGregor Fight, Solar Eclipse, Hurricane Harvey, Aaron Hernandez, Fidget Spinner. ***Their 2-min. "2017 Year in Search" video*** <http://bit.ly/2Bhbiuq>

**MEDIAWATCH -- NEW NYT MAGAZINE COVER** - Sunday's magazine is a special "She Said" edition that is dedicated to sexual harassment: "Amanda Hess, Anita Hill, Laura Kipnis, Soledad O'Brien, Lynn Povich, Danyel Smith and Emily Bazelon discuss