

# TRIBUTE TO HEATH GUNNS

• Mr. RISCH. Madam President, the Gem State is made strong by the hard-working, dedicated, and selfless actions of Idahoans. Across our State, hundreds of thousands of veterans, first responders, volunteers, and public servants go above and beyond for the communities they call home. These people are pillars of our State and are essential to keeping Idaho the best place to live, work, and raise a family. Through my Idaho Service Spotlight, I recognize these exceptional Idahoans whose service and leadership have made a lasting impact on the Gem State. Today, I am pleased to recognize Heath Gunns as an Idaho Service Spotlight recipient for the month of September 2026.

Heath Gunns understands the sacrifice and mental weight of service. A Marine veteran and former police officer, Heath found peace from the stress of a life dedicated to protecting others in the outdoor landscapes of North Idaho. For Heath, the beautiful rivers, lakes, and lands that make Idaho special are a safe haven and a place where he can serve his community once again.

In 2023, Heath started Spoken Outdoors to provide first responders and veterans space to reconnect with nature and reflect. Under his leadership, the nonprofit has hosted guided river tours, fishing excursions, and recreational events across the country for those who have spent their careers in public safety. Heath knows firsthand the lasting effects of serving our country and believes each and every one of our first responders and veterans deserves not only our gratitude, but also opportunities to heal. Since 2024, Spoken Outdoors has supported more than 500 first responders, veterans, and servicemembers as they work to recover after traumatic events during their service.

Heath's work has made a meaningful difference for Idaho's first responders. Following the tragic Canfield Mountain incident in 2025, Spoken Outdoors hosted the Shield and Flame event, providing those involved in the rescue efforts with a day of wellness and support on the Kootenai River. Spoken Outdoors also organized river trips on the Kootenai and Grand Ronde Rivers, giving 80 first responders an opportunity to gather and spend a day fishing.

Heath finds Spoken Outdoors helps not only first responders, but the broader community as well. Each event offers first responders with the chance to create meaningful relationships and better navigate their experiences, helping them recognize they are not alone in their struggles. In turn, their families and communities benefit from more resilient first responders with renewed hearts of service.

On behalf of the people of Idaho, I thank and congratulate Heath for being selected as an Idaho Service Spotlight recipient for the month of

September 2026. You reflect the very best of our state and Idaho is stronger because of your actions.●

## RECOGNIZING LATTICE MATERIALS

• Mr. SHEEHY. Madam President, it is my honor today to recognize a true Montana manufacturing and industry innovator: Lattice Materials.

From their beginnings in Bozeman, MT, to a globally recognized, U.S.-based manufacturer of silicon and germanium parts, Lattice Materials is a trusted go-to partner for the most difficult and high-risk projects. Lattice Materials serves mission-critical supply chains by manufacturing components used in infrared optics, thermal imaging, laser systems, semiconductors, and military defense technologies.

Lattice Materials also continues to invest in Montana. Their new 80,000-square-foot facility in Bozeman will create 50 new jobs over the next 3 years and provide the necessary infrastructure to respond to increased demand for critical optical components while supporting a stronger, more secure U.S. supply chain. Without question, Lattice Materials is helping transform Montana into a national hub for advanced manufacturing and photonics.

As Lattice Materials continues to invest in Montana, fortify our critical minerals supply chain, and ensure U.S. military readiness, I am proud to take this opportunity to recognize their innovation and contributions to Montana and the country. Lattice Materials' innovation and commitment to Montana manufacturing deserve our recognition.●

## RECOGNIZING TOYOTA AND THE U.S.-JAPAN PARTNERSHIP

• Mr. TILLIS. Madam President, I rise today to recognize Toyota's extraordinary commitment to North Carolina and to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Japanese Automobile Manufacturers Association.

Toyota's nearly \$14 billion battery manufacturing facility in Liberty represents one of the most significant economic development investments in our State's history. When fully staffed, the facility is expected to support 5,100 high-skill American jobs and further establish North Carolina as a leader in advanced manufacturing.

What makes this investment particularly meaningful is the broader commitment Toyota has made to the communities it calls home. Long before production began, the company worked with schools, colleges, and local partners to help build a workforce prepared for the opportunities created by this facility. That effort underscores the importance of connecting education and training with the skills employers need.

Toyota's commitment to North Carolina also extends beyond manufacturing. Its support for local nonprofits,

small businesses, and sustainability projects reflects the kind of long-term community partnerships that can accompany major economic investments.

North Carolina's experience with Toyota is part of a larger story. Japanese automakers have invested in American workers and American communities for decades. Today, those relationships are helping our country expand domestic manufacturing capacity, reinforce critical supply chains, and compete in the next generation of automotive technology.

As JAMA marks 50 years representing Japanese-brand automakers in the United States, Toyota's growing footprint in North Carolina is a strong example of what the economic partnership between our two nations can produce.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing JAMA on its 50th anniversary and Toyota for its continued investment in North Carolina and our communities.●

## TRIBUTE TO FRED M. FEHSENFELD, JR.

• Mr. YOUNG. Madam President, I rise today to recognize the upcoming retirement of a great Hoosier, Fred M. Fehsenfeld, Jr.

At just 29 years old, Fred became chief executive officer of the Heritage Group, beginning the third generation of family leadership at one of the Hoosier State's most innovative companies. He soon established an in-house research and development organization that helped expand the company into new industries, including specialty chemicals and fuels. Under his leadership, the Heritage Group evolved from a regional enterprise into a global leader, helping put Indiana on the map as a hub for innovation.

More important than Fred's successful endeavors in business were his rewarding investments in talent. Throughout his career, Fred was guided by a simple principle: "Bet on young people. They will surprise themselves." Guided by this philosophy, Fred helped build a culture rooted in trust, entrepreneurship, and community, to the benefit of countless employees throughout Indiana. In 2016, his daughter Amy began to take over leadership of the organization, establishing a rare fourth-generation succession for a family business. This commitment to building an organization designed to endure for generations epitomizes his belief that leadership is measured more by what one leaves behind for others to strengthen than what one accomplishes himself.

Fred's contributions to the State also extend far beyond his work on behalf of the family business. Alongside his wife Suzie, Fred has demonstrated a longstanding commitment to philanthropy, contributing to the improvement of communities in Indianapolis, throughout Indiana, and even around the world. This, along with his