

whom I know quite well and who is currently battling multiple myeloma.

Kent Wells was born and raised in Garden City, KS. Kent's first job was working at the radio station in Garden City. His family moved to Washington, DC, in 1970 while Kent was in high school because his dad was appointed as an FCC Commissioner. Kent attended Jeb Stuart High School for 1½ years before returning to Garden City to complete his senior year and graduate with his class.

Kent attended college at the University of Kansas from 1972 to 1976, interning for Representative Keith Sebelius in 1975, who at the time was the chief of staff of my current Senate colleague from Kansas, PAT ROBERTS. Kent attended law school at George Washington University from 1976 to 1979. Kent's first job after law school was as a legislative assistant to former Senator Nancy Kassebaum from Kansas from 1979 to 1982.

Kent then went to work for Southwestern Bell in 1985, shortly after divestiture and the opening of the Washington offices for the Baby Bells. He moved to the Cingular office in February 2001 and back to AT&T in January 2007.

Kent has kept close ties to Kansas through his love of sports. He follows the Kansas City Chiefs and the Royals closely, but as anyone who knows him will tell you, he is crazy about Kansas basketball and rarely misses a Jayhawks' game. One of his joys is that he has passed the love of KU basketball to his two boys, Trevor and Bryan, both of whom proudly sport KU attire on campus at USC and Wisconsin. Kent's parents moved from Garden City to Lawrence several years ago, which gives him lots of chances to visit Lawrence and Allen Field House just to get another look at that championship trophy. He also is always for a trip to Hutchinson, KS, to play golf at Prairie Dunes Golf Club.

Kent was diagnosed in 2007 with multiple myeloma and has benefited from the work of MMRF in the research and the clinical drugs that have been established. But as Kent and thousands of other Americans face this disease, there is more work to do.

Colleagues of Kent's and his wonderful wife Debbie are sponsoring an upcoming event on May 13, 2009, that will raise money for Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation and continue the efforts to develop the necessary research to fight this disease.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### COMMUNITY BANK OF RAYMORE'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY

• Mr. BOND. Mr. President, on behalf of my fellow Missourians, I extend my warmest congratulations to the Community Bank of Raymore for their 30 years of service to the community.

Community Bank of Raymore opened its doors on May 15, 1979. As the first

chartered bank in Cass County, MO, in 45 years, Community Bank of Raymore takes pride in being an independent community owned bank and is committed to serving its customers financial needs.

Starting out in a temporary facility at the current location, Raymore's population was only 3,138 consisting of mostly farm ground.

The first bank building was completed in March 1980. The entire community celebrated the open house and accounts began to grow. It was estimated by an FDIC investigator that total deposits would reach 2 million in 1½ years. This milestone was passed in the first 6 months. Slogans were used such as "Drive a Mile—Get a Smile" in 1980 and later as area housing developed the slogan became "The U in Community is You."

William R. McDaniel purchased Community Bank of Raymore on October 26, 1992, and immediately became part of the community by hosting Customer Appreciation Days, Open House Celebrations and Chamber Coffees.

By 1994 it was time to expand. A new facility was built adding 2,800 square feet to the existing building. In 1998 expansion accompanied the addition of Trust Services in January and the opening of the Peculiar Branch in June.

Community Bank of Raymore doubled in size in 2003 going through a 14-month remodel while continuing to serve the needs of their customers. The bank also acquired a mortgage lending officer allowing them to serve area residents with their long-term home financing needs.

Many of their employees, directors and customers have been with the Community Bank of Raymore from the very start. The Community Bank of Raymore should be commended for the dedication and loyalty they have earned from the community in which they serve.

I am pleased to honor the Community Bank of Raymore on its 30th anniversary. •

##### 2009 ACADEMIC DECATHLON

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the great work and remarkable accomplishments of Moorpark High School's Academic Decathlon team for winning the 2009 Academic Decathlon and becoming back-to-back national champions. Members of the National Championship team include: Scott Buchanan, Michael Fantauzzo, Danielle Hagglund, Zyed Ismailjee, Sol Moon, Neil Paik, Marlena Sampson, Kris Sankaran, Sarah Thiele, and team coach Larry Jones.

With this win, Moorpark High School has earned the distinction of becoming a four-time Academic Decathlon National Champion, previously winning in 1999, 2003, and 2008. The fourth and most recent championship was won by earning an overall score of 51,289.5, 309.6-points higher than their closest competitor.

Competing in an academic decathlon is a daunting task. Students spend many hours studying, practicing, and competing, often away from their family and friends. However, I know that families across Moorpark are now celebrating the accomplishments of their home team. I invite all of my colleagues to join me in congratulating California's Moorpark High School Academic Decathlon team for becoming 2009 National Academic Decathlon Champions. •

##### TRIBUTE TO JIM MCCOMB

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I pay special tribute to the outstanding accomplishments of Jim McComb, executive director of the Maryland Association of Resources for Families and Youth—MARFY—since 1989. I have known Jim for many years and I have the utmost respect for him and what he has been able to accomplish for children in Maryland and across the Nation.

Jim McComb is known as one of our Nation's leading child advocates. He was among the first in the country to call for the elimination of restraints and seclusion in the treatment of children. He led the effort that made Maryland one of the first States in the country to ensure that college tuition would be available for young students in foster care.

During his tenure as executive director, MARFY greatly expanded its role in advocating for disadvantaged children and youth, those with disabilities, and their families. Under his leadership, the association played a prominent role in forming several advocacy coalitions including the Maryland Juvenile Justice Coalition and the Coalition to Protect Maryland's Children.

Jim McComb began his career in the early 1960s as a part-time childcare worker at Edgemeade, a residential treatment center and school for adolescents with mental illness and severe emotional disturbances in Prince George's County, MD. By the end of the 1960s, he had become the director of residential services for Edgemeade of Virginia.

In 1970, Jim went to Ironton, OH, to become the administrator of the Ohio Center for Youth and Family Development, a residential treatment center for adolescents. From 1975 through 1979 he was administrator for contracts and services with Youth Resources Centers, Inc., Roanoke VA. In 1979, he returned to Maryland as the chief executive officer for Edgemeade and in 1989 he became the executive director of MARFY.

I had the distinct pleasure of working with Jim on the Foster Care Independence Act that was enacted into law in 1999. The bill increased education and support services for foster care children between ages 18 and 21, an age group that had previously been tremendously underserved.

In the next phase of his life, Jim will serve on the board of directors of the

Maryland Foster Youth Resource Center, which provides a variety of supportive resources for both youth in foster care and alumni of the foster care system.

I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding the many accomplishments of Jim McComb and in wishing him success in his future endeavors.●

#### CONGRATULATING THE MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD

● Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate Battery D of the 216th Air Defense Artillery on receiving the U.S. Army's Valorous Unit Award for extraordinary heroism against an armed enemy while deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

This is the second highest unit decoration in the Army and a proud achievement. Our State and our country are grateful to have these brave men and women serving in the Minnesota National Guard.

America's National Guard and Reserve Forces are playing an increasingly important role in today's military, and time and again the Minnesota National Guard has answered the call of duty. Delta Battery answered the call by serving in Iraq during a time of great need, and their actions helped make the formation of an Iraqi government possible. It is stories like theirs that have made the Minnesota National Guard such a well-known and well-respected organization at the highest levels of our Nation's military and Government.

As Minnesota's Senator, I will continue to do my part to make sure that our Government serves our men and women in uniform as well as they have served our country. This includes doing more to make sure that members of the Guard and Reserve Forces who have been called to Active Duty are not treated any differently than their Active Duty counterparts when they return home. There wasn't a waiting line when our National Guard troops signed up to serve, and there shouldn't be a waiting line when they need access to the services and support they have earned through their service.

Every day I feel honored to represent the members of the Minnesota National Guard in the Senate. We owe our thanks to Adjutant General Larry Shellito for his steady leadership and to our troops for what they do every day. It does not go unnoticed.●

#### CONGRATULATING THE MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD

● Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate the 1st Battalion, 125th Field Artillery Regiment on receiving the U.S. Army's Meritorious Unit Commendation for exceptionally meritorious conduct while deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. I join the U.S. Army in recognizing this unit for their out-

standing devotion and superior performance in military operations against an armed enemy.

Our State and our country are grateful to have these brave men and women serving in the Minnesota National Guard.

America's National Guard and Reserve Forces are playing an increasingly important role in today's military, and time and again the Minnesota National Guard has answered the call of duty. The 1-125th Regiment answered the call by serving in Iraq during a time of great need, and their actions helped reduce violence in that country. It is stories such as theirs that have made the Minnesota National Guard such a well-known and well-respected organization at the highest levels of our Nation's military and Government.

As Minnesota's Senator, I will continue to do my part to make sure that our Government serves our men and women in uniform as well as they have served our country. This includes doing more to make sure that members of the Guard and Reserve Forces who have been called to Active Duty are not treated any differently than their Active-duty Counterparts when they return home. There wasn't a waiting line when our National Guard troops signed up to serve, and there shouldn't be a waiting line when they need access to the services and support they have earned through their service.

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#### REMEMBERING RAMÓN M. BARQUÍN

● Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. President, it gives me great pleasure to honor an individual who lived in pursuit of a free Cuba and a better America—Colonel Ramón M. Barquín, who died at the age of 93 on March 3, 2008. Colonel Barquín was an accomplished military leader, an educator, a diplomat, and an entrepreneur. Although Cuba was his native home, he made our Nation a better place during the years he lived in exile.

Ramón was born in Cienfuegos, Cuba, on May 12, 1914. At the age of 19, he joined the Cuban Army, served his country, and graduated from the Cuban Military Academy in 1941. During his years of military service, Colonel Barquín attended the U.S. Strategic Intelligence School here in the U.S. Following a distinguished career in the military, Colonel Barquín found his passion in teaching. In the classroom, he worked to instill a culture of civic awareness within the military's ranks and eventually was promoted as director of Cuba's military schools.

Following his career in Cuban military education, Barquín was selected to serve as Chief of Intelligence of the

Cuban Army. As an attaché to the United States, Colonel Barquín was honored in 1955 with the Legion of Merit for his military acumen. While serving as an attaché, he learned of the shifting political winds in Cuba and conspired to prevent freedom from losing its foothold in his native home. I can remember as a young boy living through tumultuous times, my father often remarking that in Colonel Barquín, Cuba had the best hope for democracy. His concerns led him to participate in a failed military revolt against the Batista dictatorship and actively work against Castro's totalitarian regime. When Castro came to power, he asked Barquín to serve in the regime's army. Knowing the regime's repressive nature, Colonel Barquín instead chose to serve in an ambassadorial post in Europe, where he was able to flee to the United States to live in exile.

After briefly living in Miami, Barquín rekindled his passion for education by establishing a consortium of schools in Puerto Rico. The consortium consists of several educational institutions, including a K-12 military school, summer camps and an institute for civic education now known as Instituto de Formacion Democratica. He was recognized for his hard work and entrepreneurship by the Puerto Rican government as the 1995 Educator of the Year.

Graduates of the K-12 academy he founded had kind words of appreciation for the Colonel's work and character. According to one student, "with the Colonel, I learned to love my country and he taught me the values that lead my life today."

As a Cuban-American, a Floridian, and a U.S. Senator, it gives me great pleasure to pay tribute to an individual with a legacy as awe-inspiring as that of Colonel Ramón M. Barquín. His unwavering commitment to freedom and democracy, his generosity, and his zeal for serving others is sorely missed.●

#### SOUTH DAKOTA HONOR FLIGHT

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize a group of 122 South Dakota World War II veterans who traveled to Washington, DC, on May 1 and 2 to visit the World War II Memorial. This trip was made possible by the Honor Flight Network, a nonprofit organization dedicated to bringing World War II veterans to Washington, DC, to visit the World War II Memorial at no cost to the veterans.

South Dakota's veterans have played an important role in making our Nation great. Through their sacrifices, America has triumphed, remained a free and vibrant nation, and helped others obtain their own freedom. I was honored to welcome these American heroes to our Nation's Capital to see the symbols of the freedoms they have protected around the world. I am humbled by their sacrifice and appreciated the opportunity to meet with them and