

MA. John is a community leader with an innate sense of right and wrong and the courage to put it into action.

Some people decide they should help those in need. Some people do it as part of a company or religious group's volunteer day. Then there are the quiet heroes and unsung patriots like John, for whom helping others is simply part of who they are.

I met John during my first campaign for Massachusetts State Senate in 2003. He is the son of a World War II veteran, John Sr., who returned from the war to work as a jeweler, when that industry still had a commanding presence in the Attleboros. In addition to working long hours herself, John's mother was devoted to caring for her husband and their only son. The values John learned at home were reinforced in his community through the YMCA, Boy Scouts, church, and school sports.

As a boy, John did yard work, shoveled snow, fixed cars and did other odd jobs, contributing much of the money he earned to his parents to help make ends meet. His wife Sherry tells the story of a Christmas when a young John Rhyno surprised his parents by purchasing a tank full of heating oil from W.H. Riley & Co., a practice he continued over the years. Even though it was for his own home, the experience planted the seed within John that those closest to those in need know best how to help them through tight times. I will talk more about this in a moment.

At a young age, John demonstrated that doing what is right often requires as much courage and toughness as it does compassion. He would regularly stand up to bullies, even when they were picking on kids he hardly knew. John was also a talented athlete and excelled on North Attleboro High School's football field and in other varsity sports. As an adult, John coached local Catholic Youth Organization basketball teams.

After graduating from NAHS, he took night classes at Wentworth Institute and Fisher College, earning college degrees in automotive technology and business while working full-time managing the repair garage, motor pool, and snow removal for a local manufacturing plant. A devoted employee, John quickly assumed a good deal of responsibility. After more than a decade on the job, new management took over. One day, his new boss called him into his office and told John that to save money, John would have to lay off a subordinate. He refused. Taken aback, his boss explained in not-so-subtle terms the finer points of insubordination and its consequences. John got the message and did the only thing that seemed right to him. He quit, saving his subordinates job.

Within a few weeks, John and a friend hung a shingle at 675 East Washington Street in North Attleboro. Thirty years later, "John & Ed's Garage" remains a successful local business.

John Rhyno saw local public office as an opportunity to advocate for his

friends and neighbors. He won his first race for North Attleboro Selectman in 2000. John and Sherry use the term "office" very broadly. Open office hours take place at the couple's home, where they encourage constituents to share their concern and ideas for making their community a better place to live, learn, work and play.

During the unusually hot summer of 2005, many local seniors on fixed incomes expressed concern over how they would afford the rising energy costs. John recalled how he was able to help his own parents decades earlier with much needed home heating oil and together with Sherry, a professional artist who retired from UMass Boston after 30 years in senior management, founded Neighbors Helping Neighbors. In the 6 years since they started the 501(c)(3) community assistance fund, it has raised and donated over \$100,000 by and for the people of North Attleboro to help pay for home heating or just make ends meet until they get their feet on the ground. One hundred percent of all donations go directly to those in need through a voucher system—no red tape, bureaucracy, delays, overhead or excuses. There's no better proof than Neighbors Helping Neighbors that those closest to a problem are often in the best position to devise solutions.

The Rhynos still open their home for office hours, though local residents also know they can always just drop by John & Ed's Garage when they have got a concern. About to begin his twelfth year on the town's Board of Selectmen, John is known as an accessible commonsense problem solver who always seeks citizen input, often taking out newspaper surveys to gauge local opinion.

Residents are so accustomed to his sincerity it seems only his closest friends can tell when he is joking. One Easter Sunday, John and Sherry drove to inspect a local family's historic stone wall that the town had slated for removal. With the homeowner at a town board meeting on the issue a few weeks later, John decided to have a little fun. Doing his best to keep a straight face, John passionately told colleagues and residents of how as a boy visiting the town's historic Woodcock Garrison House, he heard the story of how townspeople stood on a stone wall with buckets of water for Paul Revere's horse on his historic midnight ride. John expected that his obvious tall tale would bring a few much needed laughs to the otherwise dry meeting. Instead, the board bought it hook, line and sinker and gave unanimous consent to save the wall.

On March 21, 2011, John Rhyno will receive the North Attleboro/Plainville Rotary Club's top honors: the Distinguished Service Award for Outstanding Citizen for his lifetime of advocacy for his community. I join them in honoring John and extend my own heartfelt thanks for his friendship counsel and his selfless dedication to his community.

## ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

### TRIBUTE TO TOM COURTNEY

● Mr. CRAPO. Madam President, today I join my colleague Senator JIM RISCH as well as our colleague from the U.S. House of Representatives, Congressman MIKE SIMPSON, to recognize and pay tribute to the exceptional leadership and dedication of a great Idaho public servant, Mr. Tom Courtney, city manager of Twin Falls, ID. Tom has served the citizens of Twin Falls with distinction for almost 34 years. Initially hired as assistant city manager in 1977, he was promoted to city manager in 1980 where he continues to serve until his upcoming retirement on March 31, 2011. During Tom's tenure, the city saw tremendous growth and expansion as it transitioned from a predominantly agriculture-based economy to a manufacturing-based economy. Foreseeing these changes, Tom was instrumental in restructuring city government roles and functions to better serve the individual and the greater good of the community. Originally from California, Tom received his master's and bachelor degree from Utah State University and briefly worked for the city of Tracey, CA, and Stockton, CA, before coming to Idaho.

Tom's management and leadership style closely reflects the motto of the city of Twin Falls: "People serving People." Tom has proven his leadership through his philosophy and actions. As a 40-year member of the International City/County Managers Association he has mentored many young leaders. Tom embodies the philosophy of servant leadership: Truly effective leaders go one step further and focus on service to those in their own organization, ensuring they are prepared, confident and empowered to reach their goals. These leaders create caring communities characterized by collaboration, trust and teamwork. Through his leadership, the city of Twin Falls has been managed with fiscal responsibility and an unwavering sense of ethics and integrity.

Tom's commitment to the city should not be overshadowed by his love and dedication to his wife Mary and three children, Mike, Amy and Ryan, and six grandchildren, Mathew, Courtney, Hailey, Jack, Nathan and Quinn. While very much engaged in his family's lives and activities, Tom's retirement will give Mary and him more opportunities to be full-time grandparents.

It is hard to live in Idaho for so many years and not develop a passion for its beauty and outdoors. True to his commitment to enjoy life to its fullest extent, Tom is an avid backpacker and fisherman. We hope he is planning on many more days of hiking in the Sawtooth Mountains and fishing for steelhead in the Salmon River. Besides a dedicated outdoor enthusiast, Tom is a devoted runner who has completed numerous marathons in Idaho and

throughout the West. His dedication to running provided the opportunity to achieve a personal highlight, serving as a torch bearer for the 2002 Salt Lake City Olympic Winter Games.

It is with great pride and admiration that I, Senator RISCH, and Congressman SIMPSON thank Tom Courtney for his unselfish service and dedication to the city of Twin Falls and the great State of Idaho. We wish him a happy and productive retirement.●

#### TRIBUTE TO GENERAL STEVEN R. DOOHEN

● Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Madam President, today I pay tribute to MG Steven R. Doochen, who will be retiring at the end of the month as adjutant general for the South Dakota National Guard.

General Doochen joined the South Dakota Air National Guard in January 1971, later receiving his commission from the Academy of Military Sciences at McGhee Tyson, TN. He graduated from the University of Sioux Falls in 1987 with a bachelor of arts in organizational behavior management. Over the course of his distinguished 40-year career, General Doochen has become highly decorated and amassed more than 4,500 hours of tactical flight time.

General Doochen was appointed adjutant general of the South Dakota National Guard on September 16, 2007, by then-Governor M. Michael Rounds. In this role, General Doochen oversees 4,400 Air and Army National Guard citizen soldiers and airmen, in addition to 950 Federal and State employees. General Doochen has also served in the Governor's cabinet as the Secretary of Military and Veteran Affairs.

South Dakota's Army National Guard ranks No. 2 in the Nation in recruiting and retention of soldiers, largely due to General Doochen's drive and eagerness to serve our State. The South Dakota Army and Air National Guard have always produced and provided highly skilled, professional, and dedicated citizen soldiers and airmen. Their skills and expertise have complemented our Nation's military efforts, both overseas and on the homefront, and assisted South Dakota's efforts when fighting natural disasters. Another result of producing such great soldiers and airmen has been the ongoing development of great leaders for both the Army and Air National Guard, and that has been reflected in the expert oversight and leadership of General Doochen.

Under General Doochen's leadership, the South Dakota Army National Guard has deployed over 3,000 soldiers in support of military operations in the Middle East. General Doochen and I share a commitment to the family members of our military and know how deployments impact the entire family. He ensures that mobilizations, as well as welcome-home ceremonies, are the best possible, bringing the Governor, congressional delegation, and commu-

nity members together to honor our National Guard. General Doochen also makes sure all soldiers and airmen have access to the best chaplains and family readiness professionals. His leadership in these areas has meant a lot to the men and women of our National Guard and their families.

In addition to the contributions General Doochen has made to the State of South Dakota, his wife Gloria has also played a vital role in supporting our service men and women and their families. She has spearheaded efforts to send thousands of care packages to deployed South Dakotans over the past decade and led efforts to recognize and honor the greatest sacrifice of our South Dakota men and women through the Fallen Heroes Banner project. I thank her for her advocacy and work alongside General Doochen.

I commend General Doochen for the work and many years of service he has given the State of South Dakota and our Nation. General Doochen clearly cares deeply about each member of the South Dakota National Guard, and it shows in his every action. His dedicated service to our grateful Nation will not be forgotten.●

#### TRIBUTE TO MARY JO MAY

● Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Madam President, today I wish to publicly commend Mary Jo May of Kyle, SD, on her impressive research and dedication to the preservation of Native American service members' history.

Mary Jo May, a student at Black Hills State University, was a proud participant in the prestigious Washington Internship for Native Students, WINS, program. While in Washington, DC, Mary Jo worked at the Department of Veterans Affairs to preserve the great history of Native American service members through detailed research and analysis. She conducted research at the Library of Congress, the National Archives, the Women's Memorial Archives, and many other museums.

Through her research, the VA produced an exhibit detailing the stories and groundbreaking actions of several Native American service women, including the challenges and hardships the women overcame to achieve greatness in their military careers. Mary Jo's exhibit was selected for display at the Women's Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery and soon will be displayed at the Smithsonian Institute's National Museum of the American Indian.

Mary Jo was awarded the Gates Millennium Scholarship for her academic achievement, community involvement, and leadership ability. Mary Jo's goal is to bring her exhibit and research to South Dakota and have it be displayed at the VA Black Hills Health Care System in Hot Springs and Sturgis. She hopes to someday share her passion for learning as a teacher.

It is with great honor that I share her impressive accomplishments with my colleagues. Mary Jo's commitment to her history embodies what is great about South Dakota. I am proud to recognize her, and I look forward to seeing what else this remarkable young woman accomplishes.●

#### TRIBUTE TO SARA ELTON

● Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Madam President, today I recognize Sara Elton, director of the Black Hills National Cemetery at Sturgis, SD. Sara has served as director of the Black Hills facility for 3 years and has recently been named the chief of operations for Memorial Service Network III in Denver, CO, for the National Cemetery Administration.

Ms. Elton's Federal service career spans 12 years, and I have been most impressed with her work and leadership at the Black Hills National Cemetery. She has provided oversight for numerous changes at the facility, and she and her staff have provided great service to veterans and their families as well as South Dakota veterans organizations. She has initiated many opportunities to recognize veterans, including the traditional Memorial Day and Four Chaplains Services. She also oversaw the Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service, in which veterans with no surviving family members are honored in a special service.

Sara's greatest efforts have been overseeing the daily tasks of maintaining the grounds and gravesites of the thousands of veterans and family members interred at the Black Hills National Cemetery, as well as counseling family members in times of grief and working to facilitate the burials of veterans when issues arise with discharge and eligibility. She has approached her public service with a high degree of professionalism, dedication, and commitment to our Nation's veterans. I applaud her for her service and wish her well in her new endeavors.●

#### TRIBUTE TO INDIA ADERHOLD

● Mr. THUNE. Madam President, today I recognize India Aderhold, an intern in my Aberdeen, SD, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several months.

India is a native of Bath, SD. Currently, she is taking classes from Thomas Edison State College, where she is pursuing a major in English. She is a very hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to India for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to