

In 1984, John Walsh cofounded the private, nonprofit National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, NCMEC. This center serves as a focal point in providing assistance to parents, children, law enforcement, schools, and communities in recovering missing children and raising public awareness about ways to help prevent child abduction, molestation, and sexual exploitation. NCMEC has worked on more than 73,000 cases of missing and exploited children, helped recover more than 48,000 children, and raised its recovery rate from 60 percent in the 1980s to 91 percent today.

I truly enjoyed talking to Sheriff James Kelley about the work being done by both NCMEC and his own police force in Louisiana. While I have worked closely with and seen the success of the many excellent Alabama law enforcement officers, I am glad to hear of the fine work of these officers.

On behalf of my colleagues in the Senate, it is an honor to recognize them for their exemplary service.●

TRIBUTE TO ZOE COPE

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Zoe Cope, 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.

Zoe is a native of Aberdeen and a graduate of Roncalli High School. Currently, she is attending the University of Nebraska-Lincoln where she is pursuing a degree in architecture. She is a very hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

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

TRIBUTE TO GARRETT DEVRIES

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Garrett DeVries, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several months.

Garrett is a graduate of Canistota High School in Canistota, SD. Currently, he is attending the University of South Dakota where he is majoring in political science and history. He is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Garrett for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO NICHOLAS FALK

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

Nick is a native of Aberdeen and a graduate of Roncalli High School. Currently, he is attending the University of South Dakota where he is majoring in history and political science. He is a very hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Nick for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO TRAVIS FITZKE

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Travis Fitzke, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past couple months.

Travis is a graduate of T.F. Riggs High School in Pierre, SD. Currently, he is attending the North Dakota State University where he is majoring in biology. He is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Travis for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO BLAKE GUNDERSON

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Blake Gunderson, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past couple months.

Blake is a graduate of Central Dakota Valley High School in North Sioux City, SD. Currently, he is attending the University of South Dakota where he is majoring in business administration. He is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Blake for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO KYLE HANSON

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Kyle Hanson, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several months.

Kyle graduated from South Dakota State University with a major in communication studies. In the fall, he will be attending law school at the University of South Dakota. He is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Kyle for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO KAMARIA IVERSEN

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Kamaria Iversen, an intern

in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past couple months.

Kamaria is a graduate of Jones County High School in Murdo, SD. Currently, she is attending South Dakota State University where she is majoring in consumer affairs. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

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

TRIBUTE TO GRACE KESSLER

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Grace Kessler, an intern in my Washington, DC, 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.

Grace is a graduate of Roncalli High School in Aberdeen, SD. Currently, she is attending Hillsdale College where she is majoring in politics. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

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

TRIBUTE TO CHRISTEN LEEDOM

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Christen Leedom, an intern in my Sioux Falls, 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.

Christen is a graduate of O'Gorman High School in Sioux Falls, SD. This fall, she will attend the University of South Dakota Law School. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

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

TRIBUTE TO ZACH NEUBERT

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

Zach is a native of Aberdeen and a graduate of Central High School. Currently, he is attending the Northern State University where he is studying history and political science. He is a very hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Zach for all of the fine

work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO MADLYNN RUBLE

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Madlynn Ruble, an intern in my Sioux Falls, 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 weeks.

Madlynn is a graduate of Albert Lea Senior High School in Albert Lea, MN. Currently she is attending the University of South Dakota where she is majoring in Spanish and communications. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

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

TRIBUTE TO BROOKE SCHIEFFER

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Brooke Schieffer, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past couple months.

Brooke is a graduate of Jones Lincoln High School in Sioux Falls, SD. Currently, she is attending Vassar College where she is majoring in film. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

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

TRIBUTE TO ERIC SCHLIMGEN

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Eric Schlimgen, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several months.

Eric is a graduate of Central High School in Rapid City, SD. Currently, he is attending the University of South Dakota where he is majoring in political science. He is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Eric for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO RACHEL SKEA

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Rachel Skea, an intern in my Rapid City, SD, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past couple months.

Rachel is a graduate of Rapid City Christian High School in Rapid City, SD. Currently, she is attending Wheaton College in Wheaton, IL, where she is majoring in communications and media. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

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

TRIBUTE TO JOE STELL

● Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. President, if Joe Stell had only one career, he would still be worthy of our admiration.

If he had been only a hard-working and talented New Mexico educator who was loved by his students, he would deserve our respect. If he had only been a New Mexico State legislator who was admired by his colleagues and his constituents, he would deserve our thanks. And if he had been only a land and water steward, revered by the many ranchers he mentored on land management practices, he would deserve our admiration. Or had he been only a tireless advocate for restoring New Mexico grasslands and advancing partnerships to restore the land, he would deserve our gratitude.

But Joe Stell was all of these things: A no-nonsense public servant who asked tough questions, restored the landscape of New Mexico and changed the way government agencies and ranching communities work together to improve the land.

Former Representative Stell retired from the New Mexico Legislature after serving 20 years and being recognized as the preeminent legislative expert on water issues in New Mexico. Then-Governor Richardson referred to him as "Mr. Water." In his "retirement," he now runs a cattle ranch in Carlsbad, NM. It is on this ranch and the surrounding areas of southeastern New Mexico that he took part in Restore New Mexico, reseeding grasslands, bringing back its riparian areas and wildlife species and their habitats as part of the Healthy Lands Initiative.

Joe Stell has spent his life dedicated to public service, education, and land and water stewardship. He is proactive and constant in his efforts to improve rangelands; to communicate and coordinate between agencies and individuals and to leave the land in better shape than when he first came to it. For this lifetime of work, Joe Stell has been the recipient of various prestigious awards and honors, and today back in New Mexico he will be awarded the Bureau of Land Management's Rangeland Stewardship Award.

On behalf of the people of New Mexico, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation for Joe Stell's statesmanship and dedication to our State. Joe Stell's conservation work will always remind us that a commitment to the land and environment is powerful. For his more than 60 years of dedicated work in the public interest, I wish to honor Joe Stell.●

REMEMBERING BETTY ROBERTS

● Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize someone whose name became synonymous with courage and equality, someone who in my State is

every bit a pioneer as those who blazed the trails that opened the West.

Betty Roberts passed away recently at age 88, and while Oregon has lost one of its true giants, we have not lost the memory of what she gave to our State. Every time you turned around, Betty Roberts was pioneering. In the 1970s, she was the only woman serving in the Oregon State Senate. By 1977, she was the first woman to serve on the Oregon Court of Appeals and 5 years later she was the first woman on the Oregon Supreme Court.

I first met Betty in 1975 when she was one of the first elected officials in Oregon to give her full support to what was then a little known and burgeoning organization fighting for the rights of the elderly, the Gray Panthers. Over the nearly four decades of our friendship, I came to know and respect her as a tireless advocate for doing what was right based on facts and the truth.

Her road to prominence in Oregon's legal, legislative and political circles was not an easy one. As the Oregonian pointed out in its editorial, "Betty Roberts often heard the word 'no' during the first half of her life. No to finishing college, teaching or running for public office, and no to following her ambitions."

Anyone who knew Betty recognized that she did not take no for an answer. She went from being a teacher to earning a master's degree and a doctorate, all while raising a family. She went from being elected to a local school board to being elected to the Oregon House of Representatives and from there to the Oregon State Senate.

As a member of the legislature, she supported such pioneering Oregon laws as the bottle bill and land-use planning. What she will be most remembered for, however, is her unwavering commitment to equality for women and minorities. She knew firsthand the barriers women faced. She overcame them and dedicated her life to tearing down those barriers and giving other women the same opportunities she made for herself.

In her memoir titled "With Grit and by Grace," Betty wrote that she had "a reasonable desire to live the life I wanted."

We know now that Betty lived the life that she desired and my State and this Nation is better for it.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mr. Thomas, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting nominations which