

to provide customers with an annual report on the quality of their drinking. Currently, large water systems, those serving 10,000 people or more, are required to mail copies of the entire report to every customer.

Today, believing wholeheartedly that public access to consumer confidence reports is critical and must be maintained, I am cosponsoring Senator TOOMEY's bill, S. 1578. Under this bill, community water systems would be required to send reports in the mail if a violation of the maximum contaminant level occurs during the year. However, if there is no violation, water systems could post the reports online and only mail hard copies upon request. I believe that S. 1578 draws attention to an area in which our Federal policy might benefit from discussion, debate, and potential modernization. Since Internet access has increased dramatically since 1999, the option of reviewing reports online is likely far more appealing to consumers than it once was. Also, amendments to the current requirements have the potential to reduce paper waste and to reduce unnecessary administrative burden and expense by providing customers with the ability to choose whether or not to receive the report in the mail.

TRIBUTE TO THE MONTFORD POINT MARINES

Mrs. HAGAN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the dedication and selfless service of the Montford Point Marines. The Montford Point Marines were the first African-American men to serve in the U.S. Marine Corps after President Franklin Roosevelt issued Executive Order No. 8802 on June 25, 1941. This brave group of men were trained at Camp Montford Point, near the New River in Jacksonville, NC. In total, 19,168 African-American marines received training at Montford Point between 1942 and 1949. Many of these "Montford Marines" went on to serve in the Pacific Theatre Campaign of World War II—at Iwo Jima, Saipan, Okinawa—as well as in Korea and in Vietnam.

Although these men served our country with both honor and distinction, they often faced adversity and racism during their time in uniform. Despite their training, they were prohibited from serving in combat units—working instead in the service and supply units. They were not afforded opportunities other marines enjoyed, such as entering nearby Camp Lejeune, without a White counterpart to escort them. The courage and dedication with which these brave men served our country despite these challenges is nothing less than heroic.

As the first African Americans in our Marine Corps, they join the Tuskegee Airmen of the Air Force and the Buffalo Soldiers of the Army as heroes who not only forged a new path within our armed services but who brought our country closer to our ideals that

"all men are created equal." Many Americans credit the historic firsts—such as Howard P. Perry of Charlotte, NC—who was the first African-American marine private to set foot on Montford Point, and Frederick C. Branch, the first African-American marine second lieutenant at the Marine Base in Quantico, VA—for creating the opportunity they have to serve today.

The time has come for us to give these American heroes their long overdue recognition by awarding them the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian award in the United States. I congratulate my colleagues for unanimously passing this legislation on November 9, 2011. It is my personal honor and privilege to recognize the Montford Point Marines.

REMEMBERING PAT TAKASUGI

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, I rise to recognize a great loss suffered by the people of Idaho and the Takasugi family in particular. Last week, Idaho State Representative Pat Takasugi passed away after a 3-year battle with cancer. During that fight he was fortunate to have the loving support of his wife Suzanne, his three children, and his parents.

When I was Governor, I had the great fortune to appoint Pat to my cabinet to serve as my director of the department of agriculture. Pat was an unwearied advocate for agriculture. He understood what farmers faced, since he was one of them. He started farming in 1977 and successfully grew his business from 32 acres to a 1,500-acre operation.

Pat served as the director of the department of agriculture for 10 years, and during that time he worked tirelessly in promoting the products grown in Idaho. In 2003, before the local food movement became popular, he instituted the Idaho Preferred brand to help consumers identify locally grown products.

He had numerous accomplishments as director that moved Idaho's agricultural industry forward. He created the Idaho Food Quality Assurance Lab, established the Seed Indemnity Fund, pushed cooperative weed management, and streamlined regulations, among others.

Pat encouraged the next generation of farmers to be involved in various agricultural boards and commissions and to become leaders in their community. Pat walked his talk, as he was a member of numerous local and national organizations, including a term as president of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture.

His service continued when he decided to step down as the agriculture director and run for the Idaho House of Representatives. He was handily elected in 2008 and again in 2010, and he was a strong advocate for lower taxes and less government regulations.

For those of us who knew Pat, it was not hard to see why he was so popular.

He had an infectious sense of humor, great optimism about life, and truly cared about the well-being of others. It can be said that his smalltown roots had something to do with that.

Pat grew up in the Wilder, ID, area and attended schools there before graduating from Vallivue High School. He attended the local college, the College of Idaho in Caldwell, which is an outstanding educational institution.

He volunteered for the U.S. Army after graduating and served a total of 10 years in Active and Reserve Duty. Pat was promoted to the rank of captain and qualified for Airborne wings, the Ranger tab, and Special Forces Green Beret. Pat loved his country and was grateful for the opportunities he had to succeed through his own efforts and hard work.

Mr. President, while it is difficult to sum up all that Pat Takasugi did for agriculture in Idaho and the many lives he touched through his service, let me conclude by saying that he was a great American. Vicki and I extend our condolences on behalf of all Idahoans to Suzanne and all of the family for their loss.

REMEMBERING GILBERT CALVIN STEINDORFF, JR.

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Gilbert Calvin Steindorff, Jr. who passed away on Monday, November 14, 2011, at the age of 86. Calvin lived a life dedicated to service to his country, and I am glad to have known and become friends with such an inspirational individual.

Gilbert Calvin Steindorff, Jr. served in the military with the U.S. Army in World War II in European theatre of operations. Upon his return, Calvin was appointed as the tax assessor of Butler County, a role he served for 28 years. He was appointed as probate judge of Butler County in 1975 and served in that role until his retirement in 1995. Calvin had a fierce dedication to public service and was a member of many civic organizations.

A truly selfless individual, Calvin also served as secretary at The First Christian Church, where he was an elder, providing guidance for those in his church community. For his career in public service and the invaluable role that he played in the community, Calvin was named Greenville's "Man of the Year."

Calvin is loved and will be missed by his wife, Maxine Darby Steindorff, and his son, Gilbert C. Steindorff, III, and many more family members and friends. My thoughts and prayers are with them as they mourn the death of a wonderful husband, father and friend. Calvin was a role model to many and a compassionate community leader who was devoted to the service of Baldwin County. His presence in Alabama will be greatly missed.

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I rise to join my fellow Coloradans, my colleagues in the United States Congress and others across the country in celebration of Native American Heritage Month.

Throughout this month we acknowledge the many accomplishments and contributions of the American Indian community in the United States. In Colorado, from the windswept plains in the east to mountains and plateaus in the west, Native American history has formed a strong part of our shared history. Today Colorado's native communities play an equally strong role in preserving our shared cultural heritage.

Just this month, as the chairman of the National Parks Subcommittee of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, I held a hearing at Mesa Verde National Park that highlighted the importance of how this cultural landmark and others in the region can be better protected through cooperative efforts of our National Parks System and the region's tribes. Improved collaboration and consultation can be a positive step in achieving the goal of protecting these invaluable resources. Tribes have also worked independently to conserve and protect cultural resources that are important to our shared past. A strong example of these efforts has taken shape over many years in Southwestern Colorado where the Ute Mountain Ute tribe has worked to protect acres of sacred and historically important sites that are connected to the cultural resources that exist within Mesa Verde National Park.

The Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Park, situated on the Ute Mountain reservation, serves not only as a means to protect important resources, but also as a means to educate and develop an economic base for the tribe and the region as a whole. Also in Southwestern Colorado, the Southern Ute Indian Tribe has worked to protect important cultural resources. Just this year, the tribe opened a state-of-the-art cultural center that is dedicated to telling the story of the Ute people, providing another cultural draw to Southwestern Colorado.

These are examples of how shared goals of cultural preservation can work symbiotically, and I believe that through close collaboration, the federal government and tribes throughout the country can better protect cultural resources while developing other opportunities in economic development and education.

This relationship will be crucial in creating new jobs both on and off tribal lands while building opportunities for the next generation. For example, the Ute Mountain Ute and the Southern Ute are among the region's largest employers, each employing more than 1,000 workers and generating millions of dollars in economic activity that

benefit the entire Southwest region of Colorado. Their success is a reminder that Indian Country is a strong economic driver that can play a critical role in our economic recovery.

Of course respect for government-to-government relations between tribes and the federal government extends to other issues. As we celebrate Native American Heritage month, we must remind ourselves of this relationship and the trust responsibility that exists between our Federal government and tribal nations. This is especially important when addressing issues that have hit the Indian country especially hard, such as unemployment, access to health care, education and housing, reliable law enforcement and access to justice. The federal government's trust responsibility is a call to work together to address these issues. Upholding this responsibility is vital to respecting tribal sovereignty and protecting tribes' ability to determine what is in the best interest of their communities. Cooperation and collaboration are paramount in maintaining a strong government-to-government relationship, and it is in our shared interest to advance the goal of empowering America's Native communities.

Mr. President, to close, I want to highlight a prominent figure in Colorado who we lost earlier this year named Ernest House, Sr. He was a stalwart defender of American Indian sovereignty and a champion of cultural preservation. Mr. House was a former Chairman of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe and he represented the tribe before national, state-wide, and private organizations for more than 50 years. Chairman House's passing was a great loss for the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Indian Country and for Colorado. I would like to recognize his contributions as part of Native American Heritage Month. I have no doubt that his legacy will be a strong part of our lives in Colorado and my thoughts continue to be with his family.

I am proud to join my fellow Coloradans in celebration of Native American Heritage Month. As we celebrate the many contributions of Colorado's American Indian community, I hope that we will call to mind the long history of America's Native Americans and their continued contributions to Colorado and our Nation.

Thank you, Mr. President.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CONGRATULATING MOUNT NOTRE DAME VOLLEYBALL

• Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate the Mount Notre Dame High School Volleyball team for winning their sixth Ohio Division I State volleyball title on Saturday, November 12, 2011. Mount Notre Dame is an all-girls Catholic school located in Cincinnati, OH.

The Mount Notre Dame Cougars prevailed in the championship match by

winning three out of four sets against defending State champions Toledo St. Ursula. Led by coach Joe Burke, who has won four state titles with Mount Notre Dame, the team's mantra was "believe."

Mount Notre Dame has become one of the most successful programs in high school women's volleyball in the State of Ohio, and I congratulate the Mount Notre Dame Cougars on their hard-fought victory.●

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL RAYMOND W. CARPENTER

• Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Major General Raymond W. Carpenter and his faithful service to our country. After 44 years of service to our Nation and the State of South Dakota, General Carpenter will soon retire from the United States Army.

Gen. Carpenter began his military service in 1967 when he enlisted in the South Dakota Army National Guard. General Carpenter later joined the United States Navy and put his photographic memory to work learning the Vietnamese language in preparation for his assignment at the Naval Support Activity in Danang, South Vietnam. Upon completion of his Naval service, he returned to the South Dakota Army National Guard where he was commissioned in 1974. He has commanded at all levels, from Lieutenant to Colonel.

General Carpenter is an engineer by formal training, tirelessly devising, planning and building. He was a founding member of the Director of the Army National Guard's Engineer Advisory Team and went on to be the chairman until May 2006. Engineering and organizational skills aside, General Carpenter is most passionate about soldiers: the Nation's sons and daughters who are in his care. I have seen this firsthand and have also witnessed his dedication to our Nation's veterans as he assisted me in awarding Korean War medals to veterans in South Dakota.

For the past 2½ years, Gen. Carpenter has ably served as the Acting Director, Army National Guard. In this capacity, he has led more than 350,000 National Guard soldiers from the 54 states, territories and the District of Columbia. As Chairman of the Military Construction and VA Appropriations Subcommittee, I have worked with Gen. Carpenter to fund important National Guard construction projects, and I was proud to have him testify before my subcommittee. He has represented our home State well and has been a tireless advocate for the members of the Army National Guard. He is truly a soldier's soldier. On occasion, when Big Army concocted some sort of short-sighted plan, there was Gen. Carpenter "standing like a stone wall" to look out for the interest of his soldiers and his country.

For his efforts, General Carpenter has received numerous awards and