

day ends. It makes me proud to see these outstanding educators embody the spirit of service. Their dedication to their field and to the students of Hawaii is undeniable. I send my best wishes to the students, their families, teachers, and coaches and to the Oahu Math League for continued success in the future.●

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL ROBERT WALK

● Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, today I rise to congratulate Robert Walk who is retiring from the U.S. Army with the rank of colonel. Robert dedicated more than 30 years of his life to serving our Nation as both an Active and Reserve officer. New Hampshire has been very fortunate to have a man such as Robert serving in the Army, and I am privileged to recognize his accomplishments today.

Robert comes from a patriotic family with a long history of honorable service. He chose to follow in the footsteps of his father, the late COL James Frederick Walk of Hanover, and his grandfathers, BG Arthur Richard Walk, U.S. Army, and LTC and Dartmouth College professor—Ralph Arthur Burns, Army Air Force. His brothers, LTC William Arthur Walk and LTC James Bradford Walk, all answered the same call to service.

After receiving a degree in chemical engineering from the University of New Hampshire, he served for 11 years on active duty in the Army, where he met his wife, LTC M. Angela S. Walk. Following his active-duty service, he continued his career in the Army Reserve, serving as a traditional reserve officer while pursuing a master's degree in environmental engineering. As a traditional Reserve officer, Robert held a variety of positions, working in the Army Reserve's Homeland Security Office, and in the congressionally directed Domestic Preparedness Program, before transitioning to active Guard Reserve status. His final position was serving as the chief of staff of the U.S. Strategic Command Center for Combating Weapons of Mass Destruction at Fort Belvoir.

Even in retirement, I am confident that Robert will continue to serve his Nation. On behalf of all New Hampshire residents and all Americans, I am proud to thank Robert and his entire family for their service to our great Nation.●

UNITED FARM WORKERS OF AMERICA 50TH ANNIVERSARY

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 50th anniversary of the United Farm Workers of America, the Nation's largest farmworkers union.

In 1962, Cesar Chavez, the preeminent figure in the movement for farm laborers' rights in the 20th century, founded the National Farm Workers Association, which later became the United Farm Workers, UFW.

Mr. Chavez's steely determination and use of nonviolent protest tactics in the Delano grape strike of 1965–1970; the fasts of 1968, 1972, and 1988; and numerous other strikes around the Nation became an organizing model and inspiration for the labor movement.

Driven by its core values of integrity, innovation, empowerment, nonviolence and “Si Se Puede” attitude, the UFW has worked valiantly and tirelessly over the past half century to achieve a number of historic gains for farmworkers. The vigorous advocacy of the UFW has enabled farmworkers to secure higher wages and safer working conditions, reduced exposure to the use of harmful and toxic pesticides, and equality and opportunities for their families.

Today, the UFW remains an ardent protector and advocate for the rights and interests of farmworkers in 10 States. The union's proud legacy of social justice and civil rights is alive and thriving.

The story of the first 50 years of the United Farm Workers is a testament to the value of perseverance and social justice. I applaud the indefatigable commitment of all UFW members, past and present, to bring justice and equality to farmworkers and to future generations.

As the members and friends of the United Farm Workers gather to celebrate this auspicious occasion, I congratulate them on their 50th anniversary and wish everyone a memorable anniversary and continued success.●

EAST BAY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT

● Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I wish today to recognize the significant contributions that the East Bay Municipal Utility District in Oakland, CA, is making with respect to renewable energy production. East Bay Municipal Utility District is a regional water and wastewater treatment agency serving the needs of the citizens of Alameda and Contra Costa Counties in the San Francisco Bay area. I am proud to note that with 1.3 million customers in the east bay region, this agency is leading the way in developing sustainable energy and water conservation practices that benefit the region.

On April 3, the East Bay Municipal Utility District's board of directors will formally dedicate a project that will create clean energy for the region and help ensure that waste materials that would otherwise be sent to landfills are reused. This new project is the Power Generation Station Renewable Energy Expansion Project and it builds on the successful Resource Recovery Program that is already serving as a model for other wastewater treatment plants across the Nation.

The Power Generation Station Renewable Energy Expansion Project will utilize biogas, methane, produced from anaerobic digesters to power electrical generators and a new 4.6-megawatt

clean-burn turbine. The source materials used by the anaerobic digesters will be waste that is currently being sent to garbage dumps. As a result of this new project, EBMUD's total production capacity at its wastewater treatment plant will be 10.6 megawatts, enough capacity to meet the electrical power demands of 13,000 homes.

The innovative Power Generation Station Renewable Energy Expansion Project will allow the East Bay Municipal Utility District to be the first agency of its kind in the Nation to generate all its own energy entirely from the production of biogas generated from waste materials. Excess energy, above and beyond that needed to meet the electrical power demands of running the wastewater treatment plant, will be sold back to the electrical grid, thereby helping to keep customer rates low by reducing EBMUD's power bill and increasing revenues from the sale of electricity. Increasing the generation of green energy supports California's goal of increasing clean energy while reducing greenhouse gas emissions. This project is particularly important because EBMUD is currently generating so much biogas from waste material that it is forced to flare the excess biogas.

At a time when all of us must find ways to reduce energy consumption and help generate renewable energy, I commend the board of directors and the employees of the East Bay Municipal Utility District for the foresight they have shown in developing and growing the Resource Recovery Program and in the construction of this important sustainable energy project. This project serves as a reminder to each of us that we can find ways to develop high-quality public services and reduce operating costs through innovative thinking and the use of technology. I congratulate East Bay Municipal Utility District for leading the way on developing clean energy.●

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL RICHARD C. GROSS

● Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing COL Richard “Rich” C. Gross on the occasion of his promotion to brigadier general in the U.S. Army. This is a tremendous honor, for which he should be especially proud.

A devoted patriot, Rich has dedicated the past 27 years to serving our Armed Forces and protecting our Nation. After graduating from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, he was commissioned in the U.S. Army as a second lieutenant in the Infantry. Rich's first assignment took him to the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, NC, where he served in numerous leadership positions. While there, he was accepted into the Army's Funded Legal Education Program. In 1993, he graduated from the University of Virginia School of Law and entered the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's, JAG,

Corps. He later earned a master's degree in strategic studies from the U.S. Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, PA.

As a JAG, Rich served in numerous positions across the world. He began serving in the 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, KY. After assignments at the U.S. Army Litigation Division in Arlington, VA, and the 1st Special Operational Detachment—Delta, Fort Bragg, he was assigned to the V Corps, Heidelberg, Germany, as the deputy staff judge advocate, SJA. Most recently, he served as the SJA for U.S. Central Command, USCENTCOM, at MacDill AFB, Tampa, FL.

I had the opportunity to serve with Rich in Kabul, Afghanistan, and was able to see firsthand his strong work ethic, good character, and integrity. As the chief legal advisor for the International Security Assistance Force, ISAF, and SJA for U.S. Forces—Afghanistan, USFOR-A, Rich is an invaluable asset to our Armed Forces and, as a leader, has set an example for other service men to follow.

Rich has received numerous awards, including the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Meritorious Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, and the Non-Article 5 NATO Medal. He is a recipient of the U.S. Army Ranger Tab, Master Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, and Expert Infantryman Badge.

I ask the Senate join me in congratulating Richard C. Gross on his promotion to Army, brigadier general. We thank him for his lifelong dedication to our Armed Forces and Nation. I wish Rich the very best in his future endeavors.●

REMEMBERING JUDGE DAVID HUFF

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today we honor the life and service of Judge David Huff, whose passing on March 27, 2012 signifies a great loss to Nevada's judiciary. David's commitment to the people of the State of Nevada will never be forgotten. I send my condolences and prayers to David's family in this time of mourning.

David served the communities of Fallon and Yerington for 15 years as District Court Judge for Nevada's Third Judicial District Court and the recently-formed Tenth Judicial District Court. Since being elected to the bench in 1996, David's main priority was to maintain and secure justice for the residents of Churchill and Lyon Counties. Throughout his career, David was deeply invested in community efforts to improve the justice system by developing policies that promoted excellence in court administration.

As a Vietnam veteran and Navy Justice School graduate, David made a commitment to his country long before he served the great State of Nevada. He joined the United States Navy and

after being deployed, worked for the Judge Advocate General's—JAG—Corps to provide military individuals with legal support and assistance. David also served as a military judge, demonstrating his continued resolution to upholding the laws of our land.

Throughout his life, David maintained a dedication to the preservation of justice and integrity which I am honored to commend. Today, I join the Churchill County community and citizens of the Silver State to celebrate the life of an upstanding Nevadan and dedicated advocate on behalf of our State.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. JOHN HITT

● Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to a great Floridian, Dr. John Hitt, who earlier this month celebrated his 20th anniversary as the president of the University of Central Florida.

First and foremost, I would like to congratulate him on reaching this milestone, and thank him and his wife Martha for everything they have done for Central Florida over the past 20 years. When they arrived at UCF in 1992, Dr. Hitt outlined five goals for UCF that have held steadfast for two decades.

He wanted the school to offer the best undergraduate education available in Florida and achieve international prominence in key programs of graduate study and research. He wanted the school to provide international focus to UCF's curricula and research programs, become more inclusive and diverse, and to be America's leading partnership university.

This innovative vision and entrepreneurial spirit have led to UCF becoming our nation's 2nd largest university and a place among America's premier metropolitan research universities.

When Dr. Hitt arrived in Orlando, he knew that the key to making UCF a world-class university and a vital force in Central Florida was going to be through the power of partnerships.

It would be through partnerships with our community and State colleges where UCF accepts 29 percent of all Florida community and State college transfer students, making it the No. 1 destination for transfer students in the State university system and among the top universities in the United States for community college transfer students.

It would be through partnerships with industry and government that led to the growth of the Central Florida Research Park—one of the top five research parks in the country—and to the founding of the Florida High Tech Corridor Council, which links the resources and talent of UCF, the University of South Florida, and the University of Florida with high-tech companies.

And, it would be through partnerships that are profoundly transforming Central Florida, such as those that led

to the creation of the UCF College of Medicine which has become the cornerstone for a growing medical sciences cluster of facilities known as the "Medical City at Lake Nona."

A few weeks ago, Dr. Hitt told the UCF community that if he had learned anything in 20 years, it was that our greatest danger is not to dream too large, but to dream too small. In the years that he has led UCF—and in the 50 years that he has had Martha at his side—John Hitt has stayed true to his ideals, his vision, and his heart.

Mr. President, Dr. Hitt is fond of saying that UCF "stands for opportunity." That is in no small part because of his strength of character, bold vision and steady leadership. As UCF celebrates its 50th anniversary next year, Dr. Hitt's unique approach to tackling challenges and creating opportunities has taken UCF from promise to prominence. On this special anniversary, I thank Dr. Hitt for not straying from the five visionary goals that he outlined in his inaugural address two decades ago—and for showing us what is possible through passion and partnership.

Thank you, Dr. Hitt.●

TRIBUTE TO JOHN W. ROWE

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to John Rowe, an individual whose keen intellect and indefatigable work ethic have transformed him into one of the country's most respected voices in the energy industry—and one that I have relied on throughout my congressional career as a source for honest analysis of public policy relating to climate change and energy markets.

Earlier this month, John spent his first day of retirement teaching students at a charter school that he financed and founded in Chicago—an action which embodies a career that has prioritized responsibility, competition, and above all, a commitment to embracing challenges. Indeed, John not only leaves Exelon a stronger company, but he bequeaths a legacy of vision and innovation to the utility sector that will truly reverberate for generations to come. It has often been noted that John holds the distinction of being the longest serving utility executive in the United States, which is also a remarkable reflection of the degree to which he is considered a pre-eminent and trusted voice on a range of issues from national climate policies to transmission and environmental regulations.

To think that it all began in Maine. In reflecting upon the origins of his career, John described to the New York Times last summer that he was told he could either try to become a CEO through a long and arduous climb up the corporate ladder, or he could "go to some fairly small company that is in really big trouble and is willing to take a lot of risk." And the rest, as they say, is history—to the everlasting benefit of the energy industry.