

As director of the State's premier business assistance program, Massey dedicates himself to helping the area's small businesses achieve success and promoting the mission and goals of the SBDC program to help spur economic development.

We are also proud of Arkansas Power Electronics International, Inc., for its recognition as the 2012 Arkansas State Small Business Person of the Year. The company continues to strive for success as it develops the next generation of high energy-efficiency power electronics systems. APEI is a great small business model, growing from one person to more than 35 in 15 years, with plans for expansion in the coming years.

These Arkansas business leaders will help move America into the future and construct the groundwork for economic recovery. We need to continue pursuing policies that support the entrepreneurial spirit of these economic building blocks.

TAIWAN'S PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, on Sunday, the 20th of May, Taiwan marked the second inauguration of President Ma Ying-jeou. Since its first direct presidential elections in 1996, Taiwan's democracy has emerged as model for the rest of the Asia Pacific region. Over these 16 years, power has changed hands twice between Taiwan's two largest political parties, demonstrating for the world the rapid maturation of its democracy and the commitment of its people to exercising their democratic freedoms. I rise today to congratulate President Ma on his inauguration, and note Taiwan's remarkable history as a kindred democracy, key partner in security and trade, and great friend of the United States.

I take deep pride in the partnership between the United States and the people of Taiwan, which is rooted in shared values, shared interests, and a shared vision for a peaceful and prosperous future. For more than 6 decades, the United States has stood with Taiwan as it has transformed into a prosperous free market democracy.

Just as the United States has supported Taiwan, so too has Taiwan been a great friend to America. Taiwan is among America's top trading partners. Moreover, time and time again from the Korean War, to the Vietnam War, to our continued security cooperation today Taiwan has stood shoulder to shoulder with the United States. I am deeply grateful to the people of Taiwan for their contributions to our shared security and prosperity.

Looking to the future, I hope and believe that President Ma's second inauguration will mark another milestone in the deepening relationship between the United States and Taiwan. For all of our progress, we still have a big agenda ahead.

It is past time for us to remove the barriers to trade between the U.S. and

Taiwan and negotiate a Free Trade Agreement with Taiwan. We must also ensure that the people of Taiwan are secure, so they can continue to decide their future for themselves. That, in turn, means the United States should take common-sense steps to deepen our security ties with Taiwan and support Taiwan in acquiring the weapons it needs and has requested. As the United States focuses increasingly on the Asia-Pacific region, the Obama Administration must do more to make Taiwan an integral part of our broader strategy to uphold the balance of power in this critical part of the world as a way to maintain peace.

In closing, I again congratulate President Ma on his inauguration and thank Taiwan's people for their decades of friendship.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD F. WALSH

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I would be remiss if I did not recognize that today's meeting of the Senate Committee on Armed Services to vote out its annual Defense authorization bill was the last for Richard F. Walsh of my staff. I know Dick's Winnebago is packed and idling outside and is probably out of gas because he delayed his retirement to see us through mark up, but I want to say a few words before we adjourn.

I believe in the nobility of public service, and I think Dick exemplifies that, not just through his tenure here but throughout his entire career. Many may not know that Dick came to the Armed Services Committee after a distinguished 30-year career in the Navy, much of it as a judge advocate. He served in a number of challenging assignments, including counsel to the Chief of Naval Personnel; commander of the Naval Legal Service Office, National Capital Region; director of legislation in the Navy's Office of Legislative Affairs; and executive director for Senate affairs under the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs.

In 2001, my good friend Senator John Warner hired Dick to handle personnel issues. From the halls of the service academies to the bones of Tripoli, Dick has seen it all. He has worked on issues of military pay, benefits, and education. Some were high profile, others not. Some were for the dogs, literally and figuratively. During his tenure, he strived to ensure fairness in the military justice system and remained vigilant so that military standards continue to reflect the honor of military service. I am proud of the work we did together on the GI bill to ensure the transferability of military benefits to family members. Through it all, he showed himself a consummate professional.

Our committee works on issues vital to our national security and the men and women who protect it. Dick's work in particular over the last decade touches our soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, and their families, daily, in

very real, very meaningful ways. I know Dick will have mixed emotions when he leaves us, but he can take comfort in the knowledge that he has made a difference.

So from one retired Navy officer to another, I wish Dick Walsh and his wife Gail fair winds and following seas as they board their Winnebago and push off for a well-earned retirement together.

REMEMBERING DENISE ADDISON

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life of one of my long-time aides, Denise Addison, who was a devoted public servant and cherished friend. Sadly, Denise lost her long battle with cancer on May 12, 2012.

Denise first came to my office back in 2001. While I was just starting my Senate career that year, she was already an experienced veteran, having worked in Congress for 25 years.

Although Denise was not a native of Nebraska, having grown up right here in our Nation's capital, she found something special in our great State and adopted it as her own. In 1998, she began working with former Nebraska Senator Chuck Hagel, later transitioning to the office of then-Senator Bob Kerrey, whose staff members were so impressed by Denise's performance that they strongly recommended she be one of my first hires.

Denise's work with my constituent services team was impeccable. She was well aware of how important my constituents are to me and, as such, took great pride in her work. Her amazing memory and attention to detail made her a valuable staff member, and her complete satisfaction with her daily work made her irreplaceable. In this town, it is rare to find someone who possesses all of the qualities Denise brought to my staff, including loyalty, dedication, and genuine fulfillment.

Yet that was the kind of person Denise was—both at work and in her personal life. Even more remarkable than her tenure in the Senate was her commitment to her family—her husband Carl, whom she affectionately called "Mr. A;" her three children, Al, Dominique, and Jasmine; her parents; her five brothers; and her cousins, who were always more like sisters to her.

When Denise and I first started working together, her youngest daughter, Jasmine, was just starting kindergarten. Today, she is almost through high school. Denise was incredibly proud of her children and always put the needs of her family before all else.

Although the last 2 years of Denise's life were definitely a struggle for her, she never complained. Instead, she remained, as always, more concerned for those around her than for herself. I do not think she ever fully recognized what an immense impact she had on all those who knew her.

While Denise was taken from us far too soon, there is solace in knowing

she confronted her illness by continuing to be the same kind, caring person she had always been, living life to the fullest right up to the end. Denise Addison was truly one of a kind, beloved and missed by everyone who had the pleasure of being her friend.

Thank you, Denise, for who you were and for all you did for me, for my staff, and, most important, for the State of Nebraska. The "good life" will not be quite the same without you.

TRIBUTE TO COMMANDER BRYAN E. HELLER

Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, I am so proud to rise today to honor a Nevadan whom I have known for my entire life and who has my utmost admiration and respect. It is with great pleasure to recognize my brother, Bryan Heller, as he retires from the U.S. Navy after 20 years of service to his State and country. On June 1, 2012, he will enter the next chapter of his life, and I am thrilled to see what he will accomplish next. On behalf of a grateful nation, I thank Bryan for his many years of faithful, selfless service and extend heartfelt congratulations on the occasion of his retirement.

Bryan began his naval career while studying civil engineering at Brigham Young University. In 1992, he entered the Navy in the Nuclear Propulsion Officer Candidate Program and was later commissioned at Officer Candidate School in Newport, RI. Bryan successfully completed the rigorous nuclear pipeline and submarine school and subsequently reported to the USS Georgia, where he earned his gold dolphins and qualified as nuclear engineer officer.

Over the course of his career, Bryan and his family moved across the country to respond to his next call of duty. Returning to his civil engineering roots, he transferred to the Civil Engineering Corps, CEC, where he experienced his first CEC tour aboard the NAS Oceana and became registered as a professional engineer. He also earned his master of science in civil engineering from the University of Texas. In 2007, Bryan reported to Commander, U.S. Naval forces Central Command, where he headed the Navy's construction program in Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Kuwait, Jordan, and Lebanon.

Currently serving as the desert operation officer, Bryan leads the Desert Integrated Product Team, which supports Navy bases outside of San Diego and Ventura County. Bryan continues to be an incredible asset to the naval community, and I know it will be difficult to replace him. Throughout his career, Bryan has been extensively decorated, exemplifying his strong work ethic and commitment to serve. He has been awarded three Meritorious Service Medals, three Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals, and two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals.

Today, it is also my distinct honor to recognize and express my gratitude to

Bryan's family—his wife, Kristi, and children, Natascha, Heidi, Josef, and Jakob. Their strength during times when their family was apart embodies the resilience that makes our military communities strong. I constantly find myself in awe of the sacrifices and efforts that have been made by our military families. Each and every deployment causes great stress and a burden of separation that every member of these families experience. We must remember that these families serve as the backbone for the men and women who wear the uniform of our armed services, and they deserve our support. The invaluable sacrifices of our servicemembers and their families are debts that can never fully be repaid.

I am proud to honor my brother today and recognize his accomplished career in the U.S. Navy. On the eve of this Memorial Day holiday weekend, we must recognize all our brave servicemembers and their commitment to our country. It is with great appreciation that I ask my colleagues to stand with me in honoring Bryan's service to our Nation as he moves onto the next phase of his life.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

DENVER GAY MEN'S CHORUS

• Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate the Denver Gay Men's Chorus on its 30th anniversary. For the last 30 years, the group has shown great commitment to educational, cultural, and social enrichment in the community on behalf of the Rocky Mountain Arts Association.

Since the Denver Gay Men's Chorus was formed in 1982, it has performed more than 130 concerts and more than 1,400 compositions, arrangements, and medleys. The group has commissioned 25 works. It performed at the 1996 World Summer Olympics in Atlanta at the opening of the Olympic Diversity Center. It has also received the Denver Mayor's Award for Excellence in the Arts.

Today, the organization has more than 170 volunteer singers who perform at numerous community outreach events every year. They include performances at Manhattan Middle School's Diversity Week to end school bullying and a performance at the World AIDS Day Concert.

I join the State of Colorado in thanking this organization for working to address social issues and spread a message of tolerance and for enriching our community and our State. I look forward to its future work and the effect it will continue to have on our community.●

RECOGNIZING THE WORLD TRADE CENTER UTAH

• Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate the World Trade Center Utah on the naming of one of

Utah's finest buildings in their honor. On May 23, 2012, my Utah staff had the pleasure of attending a ceremony whereby the building formerly known as Eagle Gate Tower became the World Trade Center at City Creek. Naming one of Salt Lake's premier business addresses after the World Trade Center Utah is a fitting tribute to the important role the organization plays in guiding Utah's world-leading companies into new markets. This achievement is all the more remarkable when you consider that the organization was only founded in 2006.

We hear time and time again about the fact that 95 percent of our potential consumers live outside the United States. But we all know that reaching those customers can be difficult. Since 2006, the World Trade Center Utah has assisted over 1,000 companies to do just that, through educational classes and seminars, international business development events, and networking opportunities. The World Trade Center Utah rightly prides itself on being the "first stop" for Utah businesses seeking to expand their trade opportunities. By assessing their capabilities, providing educational opportunities and connections to the right people and organizations, the World Trade Center Utah provides the businesses of the Beehive State a much needed roadmap to engaging in international trade.

Their hard work has paid off. Thanks in no small part to the World Trade Center Utah and the leadership of its CEO, Lew Cramer, Utah merchandise exports increased 37 percent in 2011 compared to 2010, growing from \$13.8 billion to \$18.9 billion. In a time of great economic difficulty for our Nation, this was no easy feat and was no doubt welcome news to the nearly 93,000 Utahns whose jobs depend on exports, as well as the companies in Utah which collectively exported to over 190 foreign markets.

I congratulate the World Trade Center Utah, as well as its founding CEO, Lew Cramer, and his dedicated staff for this achievement.●

KEEPING CHILDREN ALCOHOL FREE

• Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed the attached statement in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

RECOGNIZING THE LEADERSHIP TO KEEP CHILDREN ALCOHOL FREE FOUNDATION

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, today it is my honor to recognize the accomplishments of a group of dedicated volunteers who have devoted extensive time, resources and energy toward the worthy effort of helping our children avoid the pitfalls of alcohol dependence and binge drinking. The Leadership To Keep Children Alcohol Free Foundation is a unique coalition of current and former Governors' spouses, Federal agencies, and public and private organizations united in their goal to prevent the use of alcohol by children