

to give her more time to spend with her kids and her grandchildren, more time to devote to the many volunteer and civic efforts in which she is engaged in southeast Alaska. But it is going to be a sad time for myself and for Congressman DON YOUNG.

Sherrie provided guidance to the Alaska delegation in Ketchikan, Alaska's first city, through a very interesting time. It has been somewhat of a turbulent quarter century, one in which the region's former economic mainstay, which is its timber industry, has sharply contracted, during a period in which the tourism industry has significantly grown, and during a period where its prospects of supporting major mineral development I think have substantially brightened—that is a good spot for us. It has been a period when Ketchikan, which is the seventh largest entity in our State, which is the only large community that is separated from its lifeline with its airport on a neighboring island, has endured somewhat unwelcome national attention solely because they seek dependable access by bridge.

Over the years, Sherrie has responded to tens of thousands of public and media inquiries and requests for help over everything from Social Security checks and visas to immigration documents. She has listened to thousands of complaints over access to Alaska public land and to objections to many, many Federal regulations—far too many to count here. Through it all, I think it is fair to say that Sherrie has been that proverbial energizer bunny. She has more enthusiasm, more energy than many people combined. She listens patiently, and she works tirelessly to help all. She helps those southeast residents and visitors deal with Federal agencies, navigate the Federal red tape, and then on top of it, all in that extra time, she volunteers to help her community and help her State be a better place in which to live and raise a family.

Sherrie's volunteer efforts were recognized by the community when she was named Citizen of the Year back in 2005 by the Greater Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce. But her accomplishments go far beyond being named the Federal Employee of the Year, the Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce's Outstanding Chamber Emissary in 1991, its outstanding board member in 1994 and its chairman in 1996. She has also received the Ketchikan Rotary Club's Community Service Award in 1994, received the Ketchikan Federal Executive Association's Lifetime Community Service Award in 2006, received the Ketchikan Visitors Bureau Rainbird Award in 1990 and gained its Outstanding Service Award in 2006.

Ms. Slick, originally from Corvallis, Oregon, has a degree in elementary education from Oregon State University and also training in business and accounting from Linn-Benton Community College in Corvallis. She moved to Ketchikan in 1975. A mother of two,

Brian and Theresa, she first worked for eight years as the office manager of the Ketchikan Credit Bureau before moving to insurance underwriting for three years. She later became the assistant sales tax auditor for the Ketchikan Gateway Borough for five years and then spent a sixth year working as the borough's planning and zoning secretary.

In June 1988, former Alaska Senator Ted Stevens, with encouragement from the state's other Senator at the time, my father, Frank Murkowski, stole Sherrie away from local government to head the Delegation's unified southern Panhandle constituent office. In addition to her legislative work, Sherrie has performed a dizzying array of volunteer services for her community and state.

Since 2004 she has been a member of the Ketchikan Pioneers Home Foundation, the state's main senior care provider. She was a board member of the Alaska State Pioneer Homes Board from 2007 to 2010, a board member of the Ketchikan General Hospital Foundation from 2008 to 2010, served as chair person of the Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce in 1996, as chairman of Ketchikan Rotary in 2000 and as the Secretary-Treasurer of the Ketchikan Federal Executive Association. She also was the Treasurer and Vice Chairman of Ketchikan Soroptimists, a member of the Executive Board of the Alaska Public Employees Association and State Treasurer of the Ketchikan Gateway Borough chapter of the State Employees Political Information Committee.

While active in local and state politics, Sherrie also was the founding board member of the Ketchikan Soccer League, the vice president of the Ketchikan Killer Whales Swim Club, the Co-Leader and Day Camp director of the local Campfire Girls program, a Boy Scouts Co-Leader and Den mother, a leader for the local junior and senior high schools' drill teams and for four years was a board member, vice-chair and chairman of the Ketchikan Theater Ballet. The latter posts allowed her to express her musical loves which include playing piano, organ, clarinet and accordion.

Sherrie, in her "free" time, also operated a part-time catering company and was a partner in the Alaska Cruise Line Agency, which provides lecturers to explain Alaska's history, discuss its scenery and wildlife and answer tourist questions about the state during voyages up the Inside Passage aboard commercial cruise ships. In that role Sherrie has provided factual information to thousands of visitors to the 49th State answering such questions as whether visitors to Alaska can use American stamps on their postcards. She, in that post, has been a true ambassador for the state's tourism industry.

Through it all, including organizing and staffing literally hundreds of federal official visits, congressional field

hearings and volunteer fundraising events, such as those to aid breast cancer detection and treatment, Sherrie has maintained her calm, her poise and her never failing sense of humor and graciousness—not to mention her energy level. Her dedication to family, community and career is universally recognized by friends and associates.

I can't thank her enough for her service to me during my decade in the U.S. Senate, and her service to her fellow Alaskans over the past 25 years. Her intelligence, knowledge and people-pleasing skills will be sorely missed in the future. I hope that all members of the U.S. Senate will join me in wishing her well and godspeed in her retirement pursuits. She has earned all of her accolades and the true thanks of all Alaskans in the Panhandle for a job very well done.

I am pleased and delighted to have her here with her granddaughter enjoying some Washington, DC, hospitality. Again, I cannot give thanks near enough to her for all the years of service Sherrie has provided to my State.

#### TRIBUTE TO LORY YUDIN

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, there is a definition of "United States Senator" that I have always enjoyed: "A United States Senator is a constitutional impediment to the smooth functioning of staff." We may laugh. But we all know that there is a lot of truth in that!

On the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, which I chair, I am blessed with one of the finest staff teams on Capitol Hill. And on that staff, Lory Yudin, our chief clerk, has set the highest standard for professionalism, expertise, and work ethic. So it is a sad day for the committee as Lory retires this week.

Actually, this is Lory's second retirement from the Senate. She originally came to work in the Senate in 1977, as a staffer for the Banking Committee, later moving to the Rules Committee, and retiring in 2001.

She was coaxed to come back to the Senate in 2009. It was a critical time for the HELP Committee, just days before the committee was scheduled to begin markup of the historic health reform bill. We were in sudden, urgent need of a new chief clerk. And not just any chief clerk. This was no time for on-the-job training. We needed a seasoned veteran who could step right in and take charge of a long and complex markup process. Long-time staffers put their heads together and came up with the answer: We need to persuade Lory Yudin to come back to the Senate.

Fortunately, Lory said yes. On her first day, she walked into a scene of disarray, with boxes, papers, and documents scattered across tables and lining hallways. Lory quickly took charge, imposing order and discipline—and, most importantly, projecting a sense of calm and competence. In short order, everything was sorted, organized, and under control. The committee was ready for one of the most

important markups in its history. As one senior staffer said about Lory's leadership at this time, "She really rescued the committee."

In the nearly 3 years since, Lory Yudin has become a beloved and respected chief clerk, looked up to by everyone as the quintessential Senate professional. And, of course, she has been a great friend to members and staffers alike. For younger staffers, she has been the perfect mix of mentor and mom, someone they turn to for wisdom and counsel.

Lory is very much a member of our Senate family. This is where she met her husband David, as well as so many of her lifelong friends. And while Lory has always been dedicated to her work here in the Senate, there is no question that her family has always come first, especially her son Eli. As we know, Lory is extraordinarily proud of Eli's graduation, just weeks ago, from the University of Michigan.

Today, as Lory begins the next chapter of her life, I join with the HELP Committee's Ranking Member, Senator ENZI, and all the committee's members and staffers in expressing our respect and love for Lory, and our gratitude for a job done with enormous skill and dedication. We wish Lory and her family the very best in the years to come.

#### HURWITZ NOMINATION

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, yesterday, all time was yielded back on the Hurwitz nomination, post-cloture, and the nominee was then confirmed by voice vote. I was not aware we were going to vote on the nomination by voice. Had I known, I would have requested the yeas and nays. The following Members have informed my staff that if there had been a rollcall vote, they would have voted 'nay' on final confirmation on the nomination of Andrew Hurwitz to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals:

1. Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA)
2. Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT)
3. Senator Mike Lee (R-UT)
4. Senator Jeff Sessions (R-AL)
5. Senator Richard Shelby (R-AL)
6. Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC)
7. Senator Jim DeMint (R-SC)
8. Senator John Cornyn (R-TX)
9. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX)
10. Senator Tom Coburn (R-OK)
11. Senator James Inhofe (R-OK)
12. Senator Mitch McConnell (R-KY)
13. Senator Rand Paul (R-KY)
14. Senator John Barrasso (R-WY)
15. Senator Mike Enzi (R-WY)
16. Senator David Vitter (R-LA)
17. Senator Pat Toomey (R-PA)
18. Senator Roy Blunt (R-MO)
19. Senator Johnny Isakson (R-GA)
20. Senator Saxby Chambliss (R-GA)
21. Senator John Thune (R-SD)
22. Senator Pat Roberts (R-KS)
23. Senator Jerry Moran (R-KS)
24. Senator Dan Coats (R-IN)
25. Senator Thad Cochran (R-MS)
26. Senator Roger Wicker (R-MS)
27. Senator James Risch (R-ID)
28. Senator Mike Crapo (R-ID)
29. Senator John Hoeven (R-ND)

30. Senator Mike Johanns (R-NE)
31. Senator Richard Burr (R-NC)
32. Senator Lamar Alexander (R-TN)
33. Senator Bob Corker (R-TN)
34. Senator John Boozman (R-AR)
35. Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL)
36. Senator Dean Heller (R-NV)
37. Senator Ron Johnson (R-WI)
38. Senator Kelly Ayotte (R-NH)
39. Senator Ron Portman (R-OH)

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### VETERANS' HEALTH CARE

• Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize a landmark moment in health care for our veterans. Today is the 25th anniversary of the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Nation's first Veterans' Community Based Outpatient Clinic, CBOC. On June 13, 1987, at the Cary Medical Center in Caribou, ME, Governor John McKernan was joined by Senators George Mitchell and William Cohen, and then-Congresswoman OLYMPIA SNOWE to cut the ribbon of the new clinic. As the first community based outpatient clinic of its kind in the United States, the Caribou clinic served as the proving ground upon which the Department of Veterans Affairs, VA, has built a nationwide health care system that delivers much improved access to care for America's rural veterans. Today nearly 3.5 million veterans, approximately 41 percent of those enrolled in the VA health care system, live in rural areas, many of whom receive care at more than 800 community based outpatient clinics.

The history of the CBOC in Caribou, however, began long before the ribbon cutting, when seven Aroostook County veterans dedicated themselves to the mission of improving access to critical health care services to the veterans living in their communities. To accomplish this goal, they established the Aroostook County Veterans Medical Facility Research and Development, Inc. The initial members were Percy Thibeault, Meo Bosse, John Rowe, Ray Guerrette, Wesley Adams, Walter Corey, and Leonard Woods, Sr.

Over a span of 8 years, they committed themselves to convincing the VA to establish a veterans' health clinic in Caribou. They were joined along the way by other concerned veterans, community members, the Cary Medical Center, and a number of Maine veterans service organizations. Their initiative paid off 8 years later, and today, on the 25th anniversary of their historic accomplishment, they deserve to be recognized. Our veterans in rural areas throughout the United States benefit today from the dedication of this landmark work. CBOCs are a vital part of veteran health services today.

These exemplary seven men battled to ensure that health care services were available to every veteran living in rural areas. That battle, despite the VA's best efforts, goes on.

Rural areas are still underserved in the types of medical treatment avail-

able. In some cases CBOCs don't even have permanent physicians assigned. The Iraq and Afghan wars have created a new generation of combat veterans, many of whom have new medical needs including prosthetic medical treatments, mental health care, and extensive physical therapy needs.

I am encouraged by the VA's renewed commitment to rural health care, and the \$250 million that VA is allocating for programs for rural communities. But I would urge the VA to do more, and expand one program in particular, the Access Received Closer to Home, ARCH, project. ARCH has been tremendously popular in all five of the communities where the pilot program was established. Given Caribou's history, it is especially fitting that Caribou CBOC was selected as one of the five locations.

Our veterans have sacrificed so much for our country. We owe them all that we can to ensure they receive the best care possible. The seven men who fought for the Caribou CBOC knew that, and we honor their dedication to their fellow veterans by carrying on their work.●

##### TRIBUTE TO PAT BRUCE

• Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Pat Bruce for being presented with the Bureau of Land Management's, BLM, "Making a Difference" National Volunteer Award. Mr. Bruce, a volunteer with the BLM Winnemucca District Black Rock Field Office, has been awarded for his outstanding volunteer service and leadership to preserve and maintain the Silver State's wilderness areas. I am proud to honor a Nevadan who is dedicated to giving back to our community to create a better and brighter tomorrow.

As the field project coordinator for the Friends of Nevada Wilderness, Mr. Bruce has dedicated 6 years to organizing volunteer projects within wilderness areas in the Black Rock Desert, which span over 1 million acres of BLM lands. Hiking in remote areas, Mr. Bruce maps routes and boundaries to create an assessment of current ground conditions. He is also a volunteer supervisor for nonwilderness projects which include the restoration and protection of BLM's Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area.

The Silver State is home to vast wildlands and wildlife, which are vital to the character of our State. As a life long Nevadan and an avid outdoorsman, I was raised to respect and appreciate our State's natural surroundings and abundant wildlife. I first enjoyed these great Nevada treasures with my father and have since passed that same respect and appreciation along to my children.

I understand the importance of good stewardship and appreciate Mr. Bruce's dedication to protecting and maintaining Nevada's lands. I am proud to represent him in the Senate and applaud