

Today, Montana veterans still rely on the hospital in Fort Harrison for their basic medical needs.

During his work, Jack met the acquaintance and earned the respect of Presidents Dwight D. Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson, Richard Nixon, and Gerald Ford.

Jack had a truly remarkable life and career of service to our country. He served as the national commander-in-chief of Veterans of Foreign Wars from 1958 to 1959.

He served as the national chairman of the Veterans for John F. Kennedy's Presidential campaign committee in 1960. He also served as the under secretary to the VA Memorial Services and Director of the National Cemetery System in the Nixon administration.

On this very day, we have brave Americans patrolling the mountains of Afghanistan. May Jack's memory be a reminder of the obligation we owe to these brave warriors when they come home. His legacy is a reminder of what dedicated public service can deliver for our Nation's finest. We will miss you, Jack.●

TRIBUTE TO DES R. GOYAL

● Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Des R. Goyal as he completes a long and distinguished career with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, USACE. Mr. Goyal was born and educated in India, where he eventually received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Mechanical Engineering. In 1970, he came to the United States to further his studies while earning his U.S. citizenship. Mr. Goyal started his career with the Corps in 1978 as a project engineer on navigation locks in the Corps of Engineers Huntington District. Since that time, he has held numerous assignments with the Corps of Engineers, including working on military construction projects in Saudi Arabia and serving in Germany as Chief of the Mechanical/Electrical design branch for the Corps of Engineers Europe Division. In 1999, he was assigned the job of Chief, Operations Division, Kansas City District of the Corps of Engineers.

2011 was arguably the most challenging year in the 114-plus-year history of the Corps of Engineers, Kansas City District. While executing the challenging Operations and Maintenance program, the District battled an epic 145-day flood in the Missouri River Basin and established a Recovery Field Office in Joplin, MO to respond to the fifth deadliest tornado in U.S. history. As an integral part of the Operations Division, Mr. Goyal led the effort to ensure his Emergency Management and Contingency Operations were fully manned by competent personnel from throughout the District. These additional missions comprised approximately 25 percent of the Kansas City District's workforce at various times, placing significant stress on the organization. However, Mr. Goyal remained

poised and calm, responding with a plea for volunteers, and was instrumental in the success of these efforts. During these challenges, he clearly demonstrated strong leadership and technical competency. His past experiences significantly augmented the success of the mission during this time-frame.

Throughout his career, Des Goyal has promoted leadership and mission execution. He has mentored many USACE employees and military personnel while leading the efforts on large, complex projects and programs throughout the world. He has tremendous passion for the advancement of his colleagues and those they serve. He championed the use of the Student Career Employment Program, SCEP, in the Corps of Engineers Northwest District, which serves as a valuable tool in providing college students the critical experience and networking opportunities to encourage employment in a public service career. Mr. Goyal continues to press for positive change through a focus on good government, professional organizations and community service.

I thank Des Goyal for his service to his adopted country and wish Des and his wife, Usha, an enjoyable retirement.●

NORTHWEST KIDNEY CENTERS

● Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate Northwest Kidney Centers on its 50th Anniversary. Northwest Kidney Centers was established as the first out-of-hospital dialysis program in the world, opening its doors in Seattle, WA, on January 8, 1962.

Just 2 years after the development of the Teflon shunt at the University of Washington, community leaders in Seattle came together to raise money and find a space to establish a center to deliver dialysis treatments outside of a hospital, which led to the creation of the community-based Northwest Kidney Centers.

Chronic kidney disease is now an epidemic, affecting one in seven American adults. Northwest Kidney Centers is working to reverse this trend, focusing on community education and prevention. Each year, Northwest Kidney Centers allocates funding toward public health education about kidney disease and organ donation, participating in outreach events and reaching more than 12,000 people with kidney information. It also developed a "Living Well with CKD" program which offers classes on treatment options and good nutrition. This program reaches nearly 1,000 pre-dialysis patients and family members each year, at no cost to the participants.

I take great pride in the fact that Seattle is the birthplace of chronic dialysis treatments and that Northwest Kidney Centers continues to take the lead on developments in the field. Northwest Kidney Centers hosted clinical trials to develop the anti-anemia drug

Epogen, and set up the Northwest Organ Procurement Agency. In 2008, Northwest Kidney Centers spearheaded the creation of the Kidney Research Institute, a collaboration with the University of Washington Medical School which has become a scientific leader focusing on ways to prevent, detect, treat, and eventually cure kidney disease.

I applaud Northwest Kidney Centers for its contributions to the State of Washington and the kidney disease and dialysis field as a whole. As the organization celebrates its 50th Anniversary, I extend my congratulations to the entire Northwest Kidney Centers community—patients, physicians, employees, supporters and volunteers—and thank them for their dedication and commitment to improving the lives of kidney patients in my State.●

RECOGNIZING THE MIDCOAST AREA VETERANS MEMORIAL WALL

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, today I wish to honor and recognize with the highest esteem the many volunteers, veterans' organizations and civic and municipal entities responsible for establishing the Midcoast Area Veterans Memorial Wall in Rockland, Maine, that honors the extraordinary service and sacrifice of all our Nation's military veterans.

Established and managed by the Midcoast Area Veterans Memorial Corporation, a nonprofit corporation comprised of members from the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), the Marine Corps League, Rockland Rotary, Rockland Kiwanis, the Benevolent and Protective Order (BPO) of Elks, and the City of Rockland, the Memorial Wall is located on upper Limerock Street in Rockland on property owned by the American Legion Post No. 1. The location of the Memorial is, appropriately, also the site of an 1861 Civil War encampment of the local Fourth Regiment of Maine Volunteers.

Undeniably, nothing unites us more as Mainers and Americans than the limitless pride we take in our revered and noble veterans. Indeed, in Maine, we also cherish the tremendous distinction of having, on any given day, the second most veterans per capita of any State in the Nation. Such devotion to country is the embodiment of the self-sacrificing principles that Mainers live by and have passed down from one generation to the next. This selfless way of thinking also inspired and motivated a small group of individuals more than 16 years ago to begin formulating plans to establish a memorial to honor our veterans in Midcoast Maine. After a long, dedicated effort and several site location changes, the Midcoast Area Veterans Memorial Wall has finally secured a permanent home.

The Midcoast Area Veterans Memorial Wall is by all accounts a beautifully designed and landscaped tribute

to the unfathomable service and sacrifice of the many Americans exceptional enough to wear the uniform—not only the 21.8 million veterans alive today, including more than 134,000 from the State of Maine, but also those who are no longer with us. Featuring stunning black granite tiles etched with digitized pictures of veterans, the wall serves as a fitting and moving tribute to those who so ably and courageously served under the Stars and Stripes to protect and preserve the cherished principles that have made our nation the greatest on earth. And, while new tiles are added twice yearly—at Memorial Day and Veterans Day—the Midcoast Area Veterans Memorial Wall is always open and provides an opportunity for each of us to express our boundless gratitude to those who have placed service above self not just on national holidays, but on every day of every month of every year.

On August 3, 2012, the Midcoast Area Veterans Memorial Wall will officially be dedicated and will feature remarks from Maine's esteemed First Lady Ann LePage, as well as officers and representatives of USCGC *Abbie Burgess*, USCGC *Tackle*, USCGC *Thunder Bay*, USS *San Antonio*, the United States Marine Corps, and the Maine Army National Guard.

On the occasion of the official dedication of the Midcoast Area Veterans Memorial Wall, I convey my deep and abiding appreciation to the many dedicated volunteers who have worked tirelessly over the past 16 years to bring this day to fruition. This faithful and successful effort exemplifies the very best of what it means to be a Mainer and an American.●

TRIBUTE TO ALLYSON BURNS

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Allyson Burns, 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 of months.

Allyson is a graduate of Stevens High School in Rapid City, SD. Currently, she is attending Creighton University in Omaha, NE where she is majoring in psychology and creative writing. 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 Allyson for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO TYLER FITZ

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Tyler Fitz, 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 weeks.

Tyler is a graduate of Roosevelt High School in Sioux Falls, SD. He is also a graduate of South Dakota State University where he majored in history

and Spanish. 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 Tyler for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO STEPHEN GOODFELLOW

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Stephen Goodfellow, an intern in my Sioux Falls, 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 weeks.

Stephen is a graduate of Boiling Springs High School in Boiling Springs, PA. Currently, he is attending the University of South Dakota where he is majoring in economics and finance. He is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of his internship experience.

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

TRIBUTE TO ALEX HALL

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Alex Hall, 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 weeks.

Alex is a graduate of Lincoln High School in Sioux Falls, SD. Currently, he is attending the University of New Mexico where he is majoring in philosophy and psychology. 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 Alex for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO KODY KYRISS

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Kody Kyriess, 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 weeks.

Kody is a native of Lesterville and a graduate of Menno High School. Currently, he is attending Northern State University, where he is pursuing degrees in English and political science. He is a very hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of his internship experience.

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

TRIBUTE TO MEGAN RAPOSA

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Megan Raposa, an in-

tern 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.

Megan is a graduate of St. Thomas More High School in Rapid City, SD. Currently, she is attending Augustana College where she is majoring in business communications and government. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

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

TRIBUTE TO BRENDAN SMITH

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Brendan Smith, 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 weeks.

Brendan is a graduate of Lyman High School in Presho, SD. Currently, he is attending South Dakota School of Mines and Technology where he is majoring in chemical engineering. 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 Brendan for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO JAMES WHITCHER

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize James Whitcher, 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 weeks.

James is a graduate of Hot Springs High School in Hot Springs, SD. Currently, he is attending the University of Mary in Bismarck, ND, where he is majoring in athletic training. 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 James for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)