

years—chairing committees in support of his favorite candidates. He even put his name on the ballot one year for Governor but fell short by just 530 votes in the primary.

As a long-time Kansas resident, Don was well known and respected by many throughout our state, but especially in Southwest Kansas.

Don was a strong advocate for rural Kansas and the special way of life we enjoy in small communities across our great State. Through his service on several committees focused on the future of rural Kansas, Don helped make certain the next generation can return to the towns and communities they call home.

From his participation in Kansas politics to his public service career, Don was always looking for ways to serve his fellow Kansans and improve their lives. In recognition of that service, Don was awarded a lifetime achievement award by Washburn Law School in 2010.

His family and friends described him as someone whose generosity, enthusiasm, and overall optimism towards life touched the lives of so many. It has been said that Don had the character of “one in a million,” and that he did not “just participate in life, but made life happen.” Don had the unique ability to connect with just about anyone, but he was especially revered by his family and friends who looked up to him in many ways. Don lived each day to its fullest and his commitment to his fellow man serves as an inspiration to us all.

I extend my heartfelt sympathies to his wife, Sharon, his son, Craig, his daughter, Debra, and his many grandchildren. I know they loved him dearly and will undoubtedly miss him. I ask my colleagues and all Kansans to remember the Concannon family in your thoughts and prayers in the days ahead. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONGRATULATING PROFESSOR MUHAMMAD YUNUS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, last week Congress recognized one of the planet's leading visionaries and humanitarians by awarding Prof. Muhammad Yunus the Congressional Gold Medal.

The ceremony occurred just a few hundred yards from here in the august Capitol Rotunda. There to pay tribute to this proud son of Bangladesh, this banker to the poor, this Nobel laureate were Members of Congress, former

heads of state, diplomats, heads of major companies and foundations, and grassroots activists—all of whom have been inspired by the work of one great man—Prof. Muhammad Yunus. It was a great privilege for me to be there.

More than 6 years ago I introduced a resolution in the Senate to award Professor Yunus the Congressional Gold Medal. I was joined in this effort by my friends, former Utah Senator Robert Bennett and Representative RUSH HOLT in the House.

We had a lot of help outside of Congress in making this happen. Joanne Carter and her team at RESULTS were instrumental. Thousands of RESULTS grassroots volunteers across the country contacted their Members of Congress and asked them to support the effort to recognize Professor Yunus. Two of those volunteers were Cindy Levin and Richard Smiley from Illinois. I am pleased that both could be here to see their hard work pay off.

I first met Muhammad Yunus more than two decades ago in Bangladesh. His revolutionary concept of micro-credit and the Grameen Bank that he founded was helping to lift millions out of poverty. He loaned small amounts of money traditional banks wouldn't bother with to individuals traditional banks wouldn't bother with.

His innovative idea defied old beliefs. He proved banking could be done without collateral and that investing in women worked. Most of Grameen Bank's loans go to poor women who go from beggars to entrepreneurs.

I have seen it myself. Several years ago, in a ramshackle hut in Uganda, I met with three mothers who worked in the local market. I asked them, through an interpreter, how micro-credit had changed their lives. One woman said: “My knees have gone soft.” I didn't understand what she meant so I asked her to explain. She said that before she received the micro-credit loan that gave her a chance to go to market and make a little money, she used to have to crawl on her knees and beg her husband for money to feed her children. But she doesn't have to crawl anymore. Her knees have gone soft.

Over the last nearly 40 years, more than 160 million people on five continents have received microloans. His idea changed the world.

The Congressional Gold Medal is the highest civilian honor Congress can bestow and the practice dates back to the Continental Congress. Unlike other awards, each Congressional Gold Medal is unique to the recipient. It is specifically designed and sculpted according to the wishes of the recipient. I couldn't be more thrilled with how this tribute to Professor Yunus turned out. It is truly beautiful.

The obverse of the medal was designed by Indiana artist Donna Weaver and sculpted by Phebe Hemphill. The portrait of Professor Yunus is meant to “accurately reflect his optimistic and cheerful personality.” He is depicted

wearing the traditional Bengali jamdani fabric design.

On the reverse, a “lotus open in full bloom, rising above the water and cradling the world in its open petals” evokes powerful symbolism. It was designed by Wisconsin artist Richard Masters and sculpted by Jim Licaretz. The Bangla inscription in the center is a quote taken from Professor Yunus' Nobel speech and reads, “Let us send poverty to the museum.”

Beyond the typical pomp and circumstance of these ceremonies, last week's event truly made history. Professor Yunus becomes the first Muslim to win the Congressional Gold Medal. Additionally, he becomes only the seventh person in history to receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the Congressional Gold Medal and the Nobel Peace Prize. In doing so, he joins truly exceptional company. Consider the six others with whom he now shares this honor: Nelson Mandela, Martin Luther King, Jr., Norman Borlaug, Elie Wiesel, Mother Teresa, and Aung San Suu Kyi. To most of us these individuals are giants of history; to Professor Yunus they are peers in the struggle to advance human dignity.

Many probably thought Professor Yunus would be a contender for the Nobel Prize in Economics, but in awarding him the Peace Prize, the Nobel Committee recognized that lasting peace and prosperity can only come when the poor can escape the prison of poverty. As I noted at last week's ceremony, this simple but important lesson from a Bangladeshi professor should not be lost here in Congress.

In addition to those I have already mentioned who contributed to this endeavor, there are many more who deserve a great deal of thanks. I would like to thank a few of them.

First of all, Professor Yunus' assistant and the director of the Yunus Centre, Lamiya Morshed. She has worked tirelessly throughout this process—helping in the medal design and development and successfully taking on the daunting task of planning and coordinating a complex series of ceremonies, receptions, and meetings for Professor Yunus.

The dedicated and professional staff of the U.S. Mint deserve great praise for their work to design and produce the medal. Throughout the process one person has held this project especially close to her heart. Leslie Schwager, program specialist for the Yunus Gold Medal, worked tirelessly with my staff, Lamiya, and within the Mint to keep the process on track.

I would finally like to thank Speaker BOEHNER and his staff, as well as the staff of the Senate Sergeant at Arms, for their cooperation and leadership on the ceremony.

At last, Prof. Muhammad Yunus, my friend, has received from Congress an honor he has deserved for so long. I congratulate him and his family. I thank the country of Bangladesh for sharing this beloved national hero with the world.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR OBJECTION

Mrs. McCASKILL. Mr. President, at this time, I am objecting to the Senate proceeding to the consideration of the nomination of Lt Gen. Susan Helms, USAF, Calendar No. 70 in order to provide additional time for myself and other Senators to gather additional information regarding Lieutenant General Helms' record of service, particularly her actions serving as a convening authority for military courts martial.

TRIBUTE TO ANN LORDEMAN

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I would like to recognize the distinguished career of Ann Lordeman, who is retiring after 22 years of service at the Congressional Research Service, CRS. In her time at CRS, Ann has been lead analyst on employment and training programs, national and community service programs, and programs serving students with disabilities such as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, IDEA. Her work has contributed in important ways to numerous Federal policies in these areas and benefited many American families, workers, and schoolchildren.

Ann was deeply involved in deliberations leading to the passage of the Workforce Investment Act, WIA, of 1998 and in deliberations leading to the reauthorization of the National and Community Service Act, NCSA, of 1990 and the Domestic Volunteer Service Act, DVSA, of 1973. In recent years, she has focused heavily on issues related to the financing, implementation, and administration of IDEA. In all of these policy areas, Ann has provided technical expertise and critical legislative support to congressional committees, Members, and their staffs.

Throughout her career Ann has embraced standards of authoritativeness, objectivity, and confidentiality, which are essential to the success of CRS analysts. She is a trusted resource who has supported the development and refinement of legislative proposals through data analysis, strong understanding of the policy areas she works in, and the anticipation of potential consequences associated with policy options. Ann has also always exhibited a strong service-orientation; while working on national issues, Ann is never too busy to support congressional offices trying to resolve problems for families seeking appropriate educational services and accommodations for their children or to identify resources available for communities to help dislocated workers. She has helped the citizens of West Virginia in this manner with great regularity over her years of service.

Within CRS, Ann is renowned for her generosity and strong inclination to mentor and support the growth of new analysts and to work collaboratively with colleagues for the benefit of her congressional clients. Her many career achievements warrant recognition, and

it is my great pleasure to commend her on her 22 years of outstanding public service at CRS.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DEAN E. GALLES

• Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Dean E. Galles, a decorated US Army combat veteran of World War II. Dean, on behalf of all Montanans and all Americans, I stand to say "thank you" for your service to this Nation.

It is my honor to share the remarkable story of Dean's service in World War II.

Dean was born November 9, 1919 in Broadview, MT, a small prairie town on a rail spur.

As a boy, Dean's family moved to Billings where his father continued in business. Dean looked up to his father as a role model throughout his life. In 1937, Dean graduated from high school in Billings and enrolled at the University of Montana, where he also participated in the Army Reserve Officer's Training Corps. Dean graduated in the spring of 1941 and became a commissioned officer in the 7th Infantry Division, U.S. Army.

Lieutenant Galles sailed with his division to attack Japanese forces occupying Attu and Kiska Islands in the Aleutian chain, the westernmost group of Alaskan islands. Upon landing, the American forces were left with the daunting task of removing Japanese troops firmly entrenched on high ground.

At dawn on May 29, 1943, the Japanese commander ordered a desperate, all-out assault on the American forces, which is believed to be the largest banzai charge in World War II's Pacific theater of operation. In spite of the extreme cold weather and high casualties, American forces prevailed. Sometime during the battle, Dean was bayoneted twice and left for dead. In spite of his wounds, Lieutenant Galles struggled two miles to alert other Americans.

On April 7, 1945, then-Captain Galles led an American assault on a Japanese force entrenched on the island of Okinawa. With complete disregard for personal hazards, he moved across open, fire-swept terrain and directed the successful attack. During the confrontation, Captain Galles was wounded a third time and received the Silver Star medal for heroism. Dean is still impacted today due to the Japanese bullet in his chest from wounds received on Okinawa.

Following the third injury, Dean returned to Billings where his wife lived, and he began a successful business. After retirement, Dean has been active in veterans' and civic organizations, where he continues to be a source of inspiration, courage, and patriotism. A fellow veteran recently asked Dean what would he say to Americans yet

unborn? In a now frail, but resolute, voice, Mr. Galles replied, "America is worth fighting for; I hope they keep on fighting."

Seventy years would pass before the Army would award Dean the Bronze Star medal for Valor for his actions on Attu Island.

Mr. President, on behalf of a grateful Nation, I commend Mr. Galles and his service to America. •

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 three treaties which were referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

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

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 624. An act to provide for the sharing of certain cyber threat intelligence and cyber threat information between the intelligence community and cybersecurity entities, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 3 of the Protect Our Kids Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-275), and the order of the House of January 3, 2013, the Speaker appoints the following individuals on the part of the House of Representatives to the Commission to Eliminate Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities: Ms. Susan Dreyfus of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and Ms. Cassie Statuto Bevan of Derwood, Maryland.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 624. An act to provide for the sharing of certain cyber threat intelligence and cyber threat information between the intelligence community and cybersecurity entities, and for other purposes; to the Select Committee on Intelligence.

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following bill was discharged from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, and referred as indicated:

S. 437. A bill to authorize the Department of Housing and Urban Development to transform neighborhoods of extreme poverty into