

commanders to surrender Innsbruck—likely preventing a final battle with U.S. forces that would have resulted in even greater casualties.

In the end, Mr. Mayer led what is now regarded as one of the most successful OSS covert operations of World War II—Operation GREENUP. His bravery, remarkable in any context, is even more noteworthy given his willingness to selflessly return to enemy territory, not far from the childhood home he was forced to flee. He did this to help win the war, and he did this in service to the United States.

Mr. Mayer is now 92 years old and lives in Charles Town, WV. He is a very humble man who does not brag about his wartime accomplishments. Thankfully, that deep humility does not mean that his amazing story has been lost, and I am honored to recognize Fred's service here today.●

#### REMEMBERING GIFFORD PHILLIPS

● Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam President, today I wish to remember Gifford Phillips, who passed away on April 17 at the age of 94. Over the course of a long life, Gifford was a truly great champion of the arts. He was also a friend to all who had the good fortune to know him. My wife Jill and I count ourselves among that very fortunate number.

Gifford was born on June 30, 1918, in Chevy Chase, MD, into a prominent family. He began life with great advantages, but also with a great loss. His father, James Phillips, died that same year from the influenza epidemic when Gifford was just 4 months old.

The Phillips family has long been a dedicated benefactor of the arts in our country. The Phillips Collection in Washington, DC, was begun in 1921 by Gifford's uncle, Duncan Phillips. Duncan founded the museum in memory of his brother, James, and their father, who had died in 1917. Mourning these profound losses, Duncan Phillips found solace in art. "Sorrow all but overwhelmed me," he later recalled. "Then I turned to my love of painting for the will to live."

Gifford no doubt also learned these lessons well: that privilege without generosity is hollow, that life brings the pain of grief but also the joy of art. He lived his life in a way that reflected that understanding. In doing so, he was a credit to a renowned family, and he helped enrich the culture of our nation.

His life as an art philanthropist began early, when he donated a painting by Cezanne to the Phillips Collection in memory of his father. Gifford and Joann, his wife of 60 years, were not just avid collectors of art but tireless advocates for art. Richard Diebenkorn. Mark Rothko. Claire Falkenstein—these are just a few of the contemporary artists they championed.

Gifford was a successful businessman, but it was his passion for the arts and his political activism that seemed to

most animate his life. As a patron of the arts and as a political activist, he wanted to share his advantages with others. And he had a great deal of fun along the way. He was a prominent supporter of George McGovern's Presidential campaign in 1972 and, to his delight, earned a place on President Nixon's enemies list.

Like his Uncle Duncan, the words "founded by" often precede his name. Gifford founded *Frontier* magazine, a west coast political monthly, with editor Phil Kirby in 1949. He published it until 1966, when it merged with the *Nation* magazine. He was the founding chairman of the Contemporary Art Council at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art in 1961.

In 1989, he and Joann began the Chamiza Foundation in Santa Fe to support Pueblo culture. The Chamiza Foundation was recognized by the New Mexico Legislature in 2009 for its efforts to sustain the cultural continuity of New Mexico's Pueblo tribes.

Gifford Phillips will be remembered for his generous spirit, for his passion for the arts, for his commitment to social justice. Gifford found joy in art, in those lasting creations that inspire us, that move us, and that make us more fully human. He wanted others to share that joy, and it is his great legacy that people from all walks of life, for generations to come, will do so.

Jill and I were proud to call Gifford Phillips a friend. We extend to Joann and the Phillips family our sincere condolences.●

#### RECOGNIZING THE FREDERICKSBURG BIG BAND

● Mr. WARNER. Madam President, I am pleased to honor the Fredericksburg Big Band for their significant contribution to culture and charitable organizations in central Virginia.

In March of 1966 the Fredericksburg Big Band was formed when a group of musicians gathered at the old American Legion Hall in Fredericksburg and began a revival of 1930s and 1940s big band music. They initially began playing simply because they enjoyed the music. Later that year the band was asked to play for the King George Fall Festival and began making public appearances. Soon after, they had the idea of playing for charities because these civic-minded musicians wanted to make a difference for people in their communities. The mission of the band soon became to provide music at charity events throughout the central Virginia area. The band continues that tradition to this day.

Since the inception of the band in March of 1966, it has performed at many charity events in the central Virginia area and helped local organizations to collectively raise well over \$2 million. Of notable mention are two long standing events: The Fredericksburg Big Band has performed a September concert sponsored by the Salvation Army Women's Auxillary since

1988 and Fredericksburg Parks and Recreation has sponsored the Fredericksburg Big Band March concert at the University of Mary Washington since 1987 as a means for the band to give back to the community.

The Big Band consists of local business and music professionals who donate their time to the group's mission, including past directors Philip Heim, DuVal Hicks, Richard Phillips, Joseph Ulman, and current director Stephen Sanford, who has been a member of the band since 1975. The current members of the band are: Stephen Sanford, director; Ron Pronk, Karen Blake, Jeremy Cooper, Terry Rooker, and John Robie on saxophone; Paul Rawlins, Stephen Sanford, Earl Sam, and Jim Breakiron on trombone; Marc Weigel, Kevin Shipe, James Canty, and Dave Greenfield on trumpet; Kathryn Hichborn on keyboard; Frankie Blackburn on guitar; Michael Rinckey on string bass; Dave Fosdick and Ray Homoroc on drums; and Mary Jo Prouty as vocalist. Current substitutes include Luke Grey on string bass, Gary Carper on trombone and Mike Sanders on trumpet.

Despite the many changes in the Fredericksburg Big Band membership over the past 47 years, their mission of supporting charitable organizations and their dedication to keeping the sound of the big band alive remains strong. I ask the U.S. Senate to join me in congratulating the Fredericksburg Big Band on their civic-minded, philanthropic success and dedication to the arts.●

#### TRIBUTE TO W. RUSSELL RAMSEY

● Mr. WARNER. Madam President, I rise today to congratulate my friend Russ Ramsey as he completes his successful tenure as the chairman of the Board of the George Washington University. After 15 years on the board of trustees—six as chairman—Russ will step down this June. Over the last few years he has overseen the remarkable growth and success of GW and worked to focus the institution on opportunities in Virginia, throughout the region, and around the globe.

He has presided over a renewal in GW's commitment to their Virginia Science and Technology Campus. That campus now totals more than 100 acres and includes 17 research laboratories in areas such as high-performance computing, renewable energy, and computational biology. Perhaps most importantly, it is the home to GW's new School of Nursing—the first of GW's 10 schools to be located in the Commonwealth. Chairman Ramsey has overseen the creation of a Virginia committee of the board of trustees, the development and acquisition of new buildings on the VSTC, innovative partnerships with institutions like the Textile Museum, and the redevelopment of Barcroft Field in collaboration with Arlington County.

Beyond GW's efforts in Virginia, Chairman Ramsey has worked to elevate GW to the status of a world-class institution leading the search for GW's 16th president, Dr. Steven Knapp, overseeing a remarkable growth in fundraising, and guiding GW to make new investments in scientific research, technology transfer and entrepreneurship.

Russ Ramsey is himself a successful entrepreneur, having built multibillion-dollar businesses primarily in the fields of investment banking and money management. He is most widely known as cofounder of Friedman, Billings, Ramsey Group. In 2001, he founded Ramsey Asset Management, a long/short equity hedge fund based in McLean, VA, where he is chairman, CEO, and CIO today.

He attended the George Washington University School of Business on a baseball scholarship and earned his bachelor of business administration in 1981. He is a native Washingtonian and lives with his wife Norma and their four children in Northern Virginia. Through the W. Russell and Norma G. Ramsey Foundation, they are actively committed to philanthropic causes dedicated to at-risk families through education and health programs. The Ramseys are founding investors of Venture Philanthropy Partners, which has invested nearly \$80 million in nonprofits in the greater Washington area over the last 10 years.

Please join me in congratulating my friend Russ Ramsey for all of his contributions to the George Washington University, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the greater Washington region.●

#### RECOGNIZING REBEKAH FORMAN

● Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Rebekah Forman for her continued hard work as an intern in my Cheyenne office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Rebekah is a native of Sheridan, WY, and a graduate of Sheridan High School. She currently attends the Laramie County Community College. She has once again demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I thank Rebekah for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her next journey.●

#### RECOGNIZING BRANDI HAUP

● Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Brandi Haupt for her hard work as an intern in

my Casper office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Brandi is a native of Casper, WY, and is a graduate of Kelly Walsh High School. She currently attends Casper College, where she is majoring in chemistry and prepharmacy. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I thank Brandi for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her next journey.●

#### RECOGNIZING DUSTIN HONAKER

● Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Dustin Honaker for his hard work as an intern in my Republican policy committee office. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Dustin is a native of Rock Springs, WY. He is a graduate of the University of Wyoming, where he earned a degree in political science. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I thank Dustin for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his next journey.●

#### RECOGNIZING BROUCK KUCZYNSKI

● Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Brouck Kuczynski for her hard work as an intern in my Republican policy committee office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Brouck is a native of Virginia and a graduate of Villanova University in Pennsylvania. She currently attends the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, where she is expected to graduate in a few weeks. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I thank Brouck for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her next journey.●

#### RECOGNIZING CHRIS PERRY

● Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Chris Perry for his hard work as an intern in my Casper office. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Chris is from Casper, WY, and a graduate of Natrona County High School. He currently attends Casper College, where he is majoring in business administration. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I thank Chris for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his next journey.●

#### RECOGNIZING AMBER PRICE

● Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Amber Price for her hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Amber is a native of Gilbert, AZ. She graduated from the University of California, San Diego, with a degree in political science. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I thank Amber for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her next journey.●

#### RECOGNIZING ADAM STAHL

● Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Adam Stahl for his hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Adam is a native of Guilford, CT, and a graduate of the University of Rochester, where he earned a degree in history. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I thank Adam for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his next journey.●