

national security to energy independence to our bountiful fisheries. As political as things get in our State and in Washington, DC, Uncle Ted had perspective: "The hell with politics, just do what's right for Alaska."

This weekend, however, is about Senator Stevens' deep love for the outdoors and adventure. It is as if this summer, one of the most gorgeous we have had back home in ages, Uncle Ted is looking down upon Alaskans and encouraging us to take up activities that require a little sweat, a little more effort than usual, maybe one that leaves us catching our breath afterwards. Whether one decides to walk or run, hike or climb, reel in a nice rainbow or salmon, take a spin on a bike or just play outside, I encourage Alaskans to spend some time this weekend getting out and enjoying our beautiful Alaskan Summer.

Mr. President, for Senator Stevens and the entire Stevens family: Let's get out and play.

Thank you Mr. President, I yield the floor.

TRIBUTE TO KEVIN COVERT

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I wish to recognize Kevin Covert, our human rights officer at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow. Very shortly, he will move on to another assignment as is the usual practice at the Department of State. During his recent tour, Mr. Covert brought a remarkable level of initiative and leadership to his job. A diplomatic first responder to raids, attacks, and show trials, his was the face of American diplomacy there to listen to the stories of civil society leaders who found themselves branded foreign agents for simply working to better their own country. His handshake was there to remind those Russians who dared meet with him that the United States is committed to telling their story for the record and will not forget them—and Mr. Covert did just that as a lead drafter of the Russia section of the annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices as well as through objective and incisive reporting chronicling an assault on rights unprecedented in modern Russia. All the while, his composure, and likely a good sense of humor, enabled him to listen patiently to host government interlocutors as American concerns were disingenuously construed as so much meddling while he politely, and with good judgment and integrity, reminded his counterparts of their own freely undertaken commitments to the rule of law and democracy.

As chairman of the U.S. Helsinki Commission and a senior member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, I have the regular opportunity, and distinct honor, to interact with the hard-working men and women of the Foreign Service. They do not wear uniforms, but they make numerous sacrifices, take significant risks, and serve our country honorably.

Our relations with Russia are at the heart of a truly comprehensive security and cooperation in Europe and I have paid close attention to this country in recent years. In that context, I am acutely aware of the challenges that our diplomats, serving in Russia under the leadership of Ambassador Mike McFaul, face. Over the past year, as a crackdown on fundamental freedoms gained scope and speed, professionals at our embassy in Russia never wavered in their support for the universal values that we as Americans hold especially dear. Our personnel, particularly those covering sensitive issues such as human rights, met adversity with poise and served our Nation with great dedication. They represent this country well and do us all proud.

Mr. Covert will be missed in Moscow by his colleagues at Post, as well as by countless Russians who got to know him in recent years. I salute Kevin Covert and all his State Department colleagues working the Russia beat during this difficult, but exciting, period of change.

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN JAMES T. LOEBLEIN

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a close friend of the Senate, CAPT James Loeblein. Over the past three years Captain Loeblein has served as the director of the Navy Senate liaison office.

Since Captain Loeblein arrived on the Senate deck he has escorted 37 codels to 42 countries. In addition to his travels, Captain Loeblein led his team of sailors with the highest degree of professionalism in support of every Member of the U.S. Senate.

Throughout his time serving in the Senate liaison office, I got to know Jim. Captain Loeblein is a native of Salisbury, NC. Jim received his commission as an ensign after he graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD, in May 1985. He went on to graduate from the Naval War College, Newport, RI, in 1997.

He has served as the executive officer aboard the USS *John S. McCain*, DDG 56. Captain Loeblein has also led sailors on multiple deployments commanding two strike group deployments and served as the sea combat commander for the Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group all in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Under Captain Loeblein's leadership and sharp instincts, his team has been instrumental in supporting the Senate's legislative responsibility to provide our sailors with the resources they need to carry out their mission. The Senate and our Nation are indebted for his service.

Next week, Captain Loeblein will officially be promoted to rear admiral, lower half. We wish him well as he prepares to take over as deputy commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central

Command in Manama, Bahrain. I want to thank Captain Loeblein for his service and congratulate him on this hard earned promotion.

TRIBUTE TO EDWARD J. LODGE

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, I rise today on behalf of myself and Senator CRAPO to give recognition to U.S. District Judge Edward J. Lodge, the longest serving jurist in the great State of Idaho. This month, Judge Lodge marked 50 years on the bench in combined State and Federal service.

His long and notable career on the bench began in 1963 when he was selected probate judge in Canyon County. Judge Lodge was then appointed by Governor Robert Smylie just 2 years later to serve on the Idaho State District Court. He was the youngest person to be appointed a district judge.

After 23 years there, his name was put forth by U.S. Senator James McClure for a seat on the U.S. District Court for the District of Idaho. President George H.W. Bush appointed him in 1989 and shortly thereafter, his nomination was confirmed in the U.S. Senate by unanimous consent.

Judge Lodge has earned the respect of his colleagues as a jurist who, no matter the pressure or how big the case, works to ensure a trial is fair. Throughout the years, he has consistently received high ratings from the Idaho State Bar.

Though it may say more about my State than I would like, Judge Lodge is believed to have presided over more murder cases than any other judge in Idaho. And, in fact, he may just be the only judge who presided over two such cases simultaneously. These cases and the many others upon which he has presided distinguish Judge Lodge as a lifelong student of the law and as someone wholly dedicated to serving the people in judicial matters.

A native of Caldwell, ID, Judge Lodge earned a bachelor's degree from the College of Idaho in nearby Nampa, where he graduated cum laude. He then went north to the University of Idaho in Moscow to earn his juris doctorate.

Many may not know that throughout his education—from high school through university—he was an outstanding athlete. He was named three times an All-American in football at Caldwell High School, Boise Junior College and the College of Idaho. In addition, he was a Golden Gloves champion and successfully participated in track-and-field. These accomplishments landed him a place in the Boise State Athletic Hall of Fame and the College of Idaho Hall of Fame.

Judge Lodge is married to long serving Idaho State Senator Patti Anne Lodge. They have three grown children: Mary-Jeanne, Edward and Anne-Marie.

Idaho is proud to call Judge Lodge a native son.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

THE UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON

• Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the University of Scranton on the occasion of the 125th anniversary of its founding. For more than a century, this esteemed institution of higher education has made invaluable contributions to the City of Scranton, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and, most importantly, the lives of its many alumni.

Founded in 1888 as Saint Thomas College by Most Reverend William G. O'Hara, the first Bishop of Scranton, the college was staffed by diocesan priests and seminarians until 1896, and then briefly by the Xaverian Brothers. From 1897 until the arrival of the school's first Jesuit administration in 1942, the college was administered for the Diocese by the Christian Brothers. Renamed the University of Scranton in 1938, it is today "a community dedicated to the freedom of inquiry and personal development fundamental to the growth in wisdom and integrity of all who share its life."

I am proud that my hometown is host to an academic institution of the caliber of the University of Scranton. An anchor of the city's Hill Section, the university has grown well beyond its roots as a commuter school into a nationally recognized and respected university with a total enrollment of over 6,000 students in undergraduate, graduate and nontraditional programs.

As a Senator representing the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and a member of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, ensuring that our Nation's children and young adults have access to high quality educational opportunities is one of my highest priorities. I firmly believe that anyone with the drive, fortitude and desire to pursue the opportunities afforded by higher education should be able to realize that dream. Throughout its history, the University of Scranton has enabled countless students to further their education and become productive members of society.

It is with great pride, as both a Senator from Pennsylvania and as a native of Scranton, that I honor the University of Scranton today. The contributions that this institution has made to both our Commonwealth and to our Nation are commendable, and I wish them all the best.●

2013 STENNIS CONGRESSIONAL INTERNS

• Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, 2013 is the 11th year in which summer interns working in Congressional offices have benefitted from a program run by the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Leadership. This 6-week program is designed to enhance their internship experience by giving them an inside look at how Congress works and a deeper appreciation for the role that

Congress plays in our democracy. Each week, the interns meet with senior congressional staff and other experts to discuss issues such as the legislative process, power of the purse, balancing governing and campaigning, political polarization, foreign affairs, and more.

Interns are selected for this program based on their college record, community service experience, and interest in a career in public service. This year, 29 outstanding interns, most of them juniors and seniors in college who are working in Republican and Democratic offices in both the House and Senate have taken part.

I congratulate the interns for their participation in this valuable program and I thank the Stennis Center and the Senior Stennis Fellows for providing such a meaningful experience for these interns and for encouraging them to consider a future career in public service.

I ask unanimous consent that a list of 2013 Stennis Congressional Interns and the offices in which they work be printed in the RECORD.

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

Peter Aldrich, attending Grinnell College, interning in the office of U.S. Representative KEITH ELLISON; Jared Bierbach, attending University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee, interning in the office of U.S. Senator TAMMY BALDWIN; Becca Brukman, attending University of Arizona, interning in the office of U.S. Representative ALAN LOWENTHAL; Anthony Carli, attending University of Arizona, interning in the office of U.S. Representative KYRSTEN SINEMA; Jack Cartwright, attending Hamilton College, interning in the office of U.S. Representative KYRSTEN SINEMA; Julie Chen, attending Wellesley College, interning in the office of U.S. Representative CHARLES RANGEL; Steve Ciranna, attending Michigan State University, interning in the office of U.S. Representative BILL HUIZENGA; Rob Contreras, attending University of California at Los Angeles, interning in the office of U.S. Representative ANN KIRKPATRICK; Seth Coppe, attending American University, interning in the office of U.S. Senator JOE MANCHIN.

Florie Crump, attending Mississippi State University, interning in the office of U.S. Senator THAD COCHRAN; Nick Fickler, attending University of Southern California, interning in the office of U.S. Representative ED ROYCE; Jon Fox, attending Miami University, interning in the office of U.S. Representative JOYCE BEATTY; Caitlin Garn, attending University of Utah, interning in the office of U.S. Senator ORRIN HATCH; Jake Goodman, attending Temple University, interning in the Special Committee on Aging; Haley Gray, attending University of Texas at Austin, interning in the Office of the Speaker of the House of Representatives; Shannon Grimes, attending Bowdoin College, interning in the office of U.S. Representative CHELLIE PINGREE; Molly Harris, attending University of Mississippi, interning in the office of U.S. Representative AARON SCHOCK; Austin Harrison, attending University of Mississippi, interning in the office of U.S. Senator THAD COCHRAN.

Brenna James, attending University of Delaware, interning in the Senate Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs; Bobby Kogan, attending College of William and Mary, interning in the House Committee on the Budget; Ben

Lassiter, attending Clemson University, interning in the office of U.S. Representative TOM RICE; Will McIlwain, attending Pepperdine University, interning in the office of U.S. Representative CHARLES RANGEL; Viviana Molina, attending George Mason University, interning in the office of U.S. Representative AARON SCHOCK; Mary Moody, attending Samford University, interning in the office of U.S. Representative STEVE STOCKMAN; Eleanor Gray Mullen, attending University of Virginia, interning in the office of U.S. Representative DON YOUNG; Alicia Oken, attending Georgetown University, interning in the office of U.S. Representative CHERI BUSTOS; Melissa Shohet, attending McGill University, interning in the office of U.S. Senator MAZIE HIRONO; Austin Stannius, attending University of Utah, interning in the House Committee on Veterans Affairs; Sara Vance, attending Mississippi State University, interning in the Office of the Speaker of the House of Representatives.●

REMEMBERING DAVID VANBUSKIRK

• Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, the State of Nevada mourns the loss of Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department Search and Rescue Officer David Vanbuskirk. Officer Vanbuskirk was a true hero who lost his life during a search and rescue operation at Mt. Charleston. His inspiring legacy of public service will be long remembered.

Officer Vanbuskirk began his service with the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department 13 years ago, and was one of only seven commissioned officers charged with conducting rescues for the department. On Monday, July 22, 2013, he responded to a call for help from a stranded hiker who needed emergency assistance. It was during this dangerous rescue mission that Officer Vanbuskirk nobly gave his life in the line of duty.

Officer Vanbuskirk represented the very best of Nevada, and his sacrifice is exemplary of the highest standards of public service. His commitment to service above self is the definition of heroic, as is his willingness to place the safety and welfare of others before his own. His actions remind us that there are brave and fearless Americans who put their lives on the line every day to keep us safe, and we owe them all a profound debt for their service.

While the State of Nevada will dearly miss this dedicated officer, his memory and legacy of courage will continue to live on in our hearts. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this fallen Nevadan, and I offer my deepest condolences to Officer Vanbuskirk's family and loved ones during this difficult time.●

KRAFT FOODS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

• Mr. KIRK. Mr. President, I stand today to honor the Kraft Foods Group, Inc. plant and its dedicated employees in Champaign, IL, as they celebrate its 50th anniversary.

This Champaign plant has the unique distinction of being Kraft's flagship facility, employing more than 1,100 of my