

their high quality products. I wish them the best as they continue to forge ahead, create jobs and innovate.

NATIONAL PEDIATRIC RESEARCH NETWORK ACT

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I wish to celebrate the passage of the National Pediatric Research Network Act, a bipartisan piece of legislation that was signed into law last month.

I wish to thank my colleague, Senator SHERROD BROWN, for his leadership on this issue. I was pleased to work with him on this important initiative in the previous two Congresses.

The National Pediatric Research Network Act expands and enhances our Nation's commitment to pediatric research by providing the infrastructure that is needed to advance the field for decades to come. To do so, the law includes training and support for early-career investigators and authorizes the National Institutes of Health to select a number of competitive pediatric research consortia. Each consortium, comprised of multiple institutions, will focus on specific, high-impact pediatric research, including basic, translational, and clinical investigations.

In addition, the law specifically states that a subset of the consortia must focus primarily on pediatric rare diseases. Participating institutions are encouraged to coordinate with multisite clinical trials of pediatric patient populations. This will provide needed support for the families of children suffering from rare diseases, such as Duchenne muscular dystrophy, the most common fatal genetic disorder diagnosed in childhood, and spinal muscular atrophy, the leading genetic killer of children under the age of 2.

The National Pediatric Research Network Act's collaborative approach allows us to rethink and improve the way pediatric research is conducted. Shared resources among pediatric institutions help maximize the government's return on investment and avoid duplication. Rather than allocating additional funds at the taxpayers' expense, the law seeks to accelerate treatments for pediatric diseases by emphasizing collaboration and the efficient use of limited Federal resources.

I wish to thank the many families and organizations in Mississippi and across the country that helped build the bipartisan support necessary for passage of this bill, including Children's Healthcare of Mississippi, FightSMA, Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy, the Coalition for Pediatric Medical Research, Children's Hospital Association, National Organization for Rare Disorders, National Down Syndrome Society, the Federation of Pediatric Organizations, and the Kakkis EveryLife Foundation.

Simply put, this law will result in an improved and coordinated NIH pediatric research investment. This effort will help children across our Nation

overcome numerous devastating diseases and conditions. I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure the timely and effective implementation of this law, and I will continue to fight for the health and well-being of our children.

REMEMBERING U.S. ARMY SPECIALIST DANIEL ECKSTEIN

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I rise with a heavy heart to memorialize the promising life and service of U.S. Army SPC Daniel Eckstein, who died on December 10 at the young age of 22. Specialist Eckstein was a member of the 3rd Special Forces Group, serving as an unmanned aerial vehicle mechanic at Fort Bragg in North Carolina.

Daniel was born in Lowell, MA on January 5, 1991, to Hans and Sharon (Green) Eckstein, and spent the first 6 years of his life there. In 1997, Daniel moved to Nashua, NH, where he remained for his formative years until his graduation from Nashua High School North as a member of the class of 2009. During high school, Daniel eagerly competed as a member of the Nashua North Titans baseball team. He was also a passionate New England Patriots and Boston sports fan.

Daniel enlisted in the Army in 2011, and following basic training he went on to successfully complete both Army Airborne School and the Warrior Leader Course. A testament to Daniel's drive for excellence as a soldier, he was awarded the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal and the National Defense Service Medal.

Daniel loved his family, and was a proud father to his young son Brayden. It is my hope that during this extremely difficult time, Daniel's family and friends will find comfort in knowing that Americans everywhere appreciate deeply his vow to sacrifice his life in the defense of our country so that the rest of us may continue to live in peace and freedom.

Along with his parents Hans and Sharon, Daniel is survived by his wife, Kristina Eckstein, whom he married on January 9, 2011; his son, Brayden Daniel Eckstein; his sister, Amy Eckstein of North Carolina; his stepfather, Edward McLaughlin of Lowell, MA; his maternal grandmother, Barbara Green of Nashua; his grandparents, Peter and Elaine Beaton of Nashua; his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Michael and Darlene Burton and their daughter Summyr of Nashua; also aunts, uncles and cousins. This patriot will be missed by all.

I ask my colleagues and all Americans to join me in honoring the life and service of this brave young American, Daniel Eckstein.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING WILLIAM SCRANTON

• Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, today I wish to remember and honor former Pennsylvania Governor William W. Scranton who passed away July 28, 2013. In both his public and his private life, Governor Scranton was always working to serve Pennsylvania and the Nation.

Bill Scranton was a descendent of colonists who came over on the Mayflower and his family founded Scranton, PA. He served in the Army Air Corps during World War II and was an assistant to Secretaries of State John Foster Dulles and Christian Herter during the Eisenhower administration.

In 1960, Bill was elected to Congress and was dubbed a "Kennedy Republican" for his support of the President's programs, including the Peace Corps, urban renewal projects and the minimum wage. He would only serve 2 years in the House of Representatives, before he was elected Governor of Pennsylvania in 1962.

As Governor, he signed into law legislation creating the State community college system, the State Board of Education, and the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency, PHEAA. During his four years in office, unemployment went down and wages went up. Limited to one term, he left elected office in 1967, but that did not end his public service.

Under President Nixon, Governor Scranton served as a special envoy to the Middle East and after the Kent State University shooting in Ohio in 1970, President Nixon again called on him to serve, appointing him the Chairman of the President's Commission on Campus Unrest. President Ford also reached out to Governor Scranton to serve, appointing him Ambassador to the United Nations where he prioritized human rights.

After leaving the United Nations, Bill Scranton retired. Throughout his life he was known as a man of integrity who said and did what he thought was right. In 2000, he received the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission's Founders Award, which is given to a living person who represents the ideals of William Penn in individual rights, religious tolerance, representative government, public support of education, and free enterprise. Bill remained devoted to the city that bears his family name. He worked with various civic and charitable organizations and continued to advocate for economic development and job creation projects. His son, William W. Scranton III, followed him into public service as Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania from 1979 to 1987.

My thoughts are with his family and we thank him for his life of service to our Commonwealth and our country. •

REMEMBERING GEORGE M. LEADER

• Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, as this year ends, I wish to remember and honor George M. Leader, a former Governor of Pennsylvania, who passed away on May 9, 2013. Throughout his life, Governor Leader worked to give voice to the voiceless and protect some of the most vulnerable Pennsylvanians.

Governor Leader was raised on his parents' poultry farm and educated in a one room schoolhouse before going on to study philosophy, economics and political science at Gettysburg College. He served in the Navy during World War II and returned to open a chicken hatchery in York County, PA. He got his start in politics serving on the York County Democratic Committee then winning a seat vacated by his father to the State Senate. In 1954, he decided to run for Governor and won that election becoming, at age 37, the second youngest Governor in Pennsylvania.

While in office, Governor Leader enacted the Industrial Development Authority in 1956 which provided State financing in order to attract new and diverse industries. The program attracted 71 new businesses and created 12,000 new jobs within the first 30 months. Governor Leader also championed civil rights in all forms. He created the Fair Employment Practices Council to police employment discrimination, and fought for William and Daisy Meyers' family when they were threatened for moving into a white neighborhood. He required Pennsylvania schools to educate children with disabilities, which raised the enrollment by 250,000. He created the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry's Vocational Rehabilitation Center, which was the first facility in the country that provided rehabilitation and job training for people with disabilities. He also established the State Office of Aging and began the inspection of nursing homes.

Governor Leader left office in 1959, but that did not end his service to the people of Pennsylvania. He established Leader Health Care Organization and later Country Meadows and Providence Place Retirement Communities to provide high quality retirement services for our older citizens.

Hubert Humphrey once said that the moral test of government is how it treats those in the dawn of life, those in the twilight of life and those in the shadows of life. Governor Leader not only passed this test, he set a standard for other elected officials to follow. My thoughts are with the Leader family during this holiday season and we thank George Leader for his life of service to our Commonwealth and our country.●

MARIAN UNIVERSITY CYCLING TEAM

• Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today, I wish to applaud the Marian

University Knights on earning USA Cycling's No. 1 collegiate cycling team ranking for the 2012-2013 season, as well as winning the USA Cycling Collegiate Division I Track, Cyclo-cross, BMX, and road national championships during the 2012-2013 season.

Marian University established its cycling program in 1992. The program is committed to competing at the highest level and developing strong character in each team member through academic and athletic excellence. Since the inception of its competitive cycling program, the Marian University Knights have won 23 national championship titles in road, cyclo-cross, BMX, and track cycling.

Head coach Dean Peterson and his staff work tirelessly to promote the university's goals by bringing team-focused concepts to a sport that traditionally emphasizes the individual. The "Knights on Bikes" team includes both male and female student-athletes who travel together as a team during each season and to every national championship. In addition, Marian University has an indoor cycling center where even the coldest Midwest winter cannot prevent them from regularly training together.

The Marian University cycling team works to give back to the local and national cycling community as well as the Indianapolis area. Student-cyclists are required to contribute 10 hours each semester to community service. They work with the community in a variety of ways, including hosting informal riding clinics, cycling for charity, and participating in campus volunteer opportunities.

Congratulations to head coach Dean Peterson, assistant coach Nate Keck, athletic director Steve Downing, and all the student-cyclists on winning the USA Cycling Collegiate Division I road, track, and cyclo-cross national championships in 2012, and winning the road, track and cyclo-cross national championships again and for the first time the BMX national championship in 2013. In addition, congratulations to University president Daniel J. Elsener, executive vice president and provost Thomas J. Enneking, the Marian University student body, alumni, and friends. On behalf of the citizens of Indiana, I congratulate the Marian University Knights on the triumph of their competitive cycling program, and I wish them continued success in the future.●

MARIAN UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

• Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today, I wish to congratulate the Marian University Knights on winning the 57th Annual National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, NAIA, Football National Championship in 2012.

Marian University established its football program in 2006 and has since committed itself to competing at the highest level both academically and

athletically. In 2011, the Marian Knights played well enough to be one of the final four teams in the NAIA championship tournament. In 2012, the Knights made it to the championship game, where they won 30-27 victory in overtime.

Congratulations to former head coach Ted Karras, Jr. and his entire coaching staff, athletic director Steve Downing, and all of the student athletes on winning the 57th annual NAIA Football National Championship on December 13, 2012. In addition, congratulations to university president Daniel J. Elsener, executive vice president and provost Thomas J. Enneking, the Marian University student body, alumni and friends.

On behalf of the citizens of Indiana, I sincerely congratulate the Marian University Knights on their successful football program, and I wish them continued success in the future under the new leadership of head football coach Mark Henninger.●

REMEMBERING CHARLIE ROOS

• Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, today I wish to remember an extraordinary journalist and Coloradan, Charlie Roos. Charlie was a journalist and editorialist for some 60 years at the Denver Post and the Rocky Mountain News. He was a man of exceptional character, strong opinions and great wit—in short, he was a true Westerner. His writing was fair and objective, and he sought to hold all public officials accountable, no matter their political affiliations. This made his politics difficult to pigeonhole; he favored good governance and public service over partisanship.

Charlie grew up in Hiawatha, KS, and served our country during World War II. Following the war he went to Kansas University and graduated with Phi Beta Kappa honors. In 1946, his beloved wife Liza and daughter Mary moved with him to Denver where Charlie began his journalism career with the Denver Post. After many years covering State and national politics for the Post, he moved to the Rocky Mountain News where he remained until its closing in 2009. At the Rocky, Charlie served multiple roles including as a Washington, D.C., correspondent, political editor and weekly columnist. He continued to write about local and national politics on a personal blog until his death on August 27 of this year.

He is survived by a daughter, Mary Roos Catton; sons, Billy and Bob Roos; grandchildren, Jane Johnson, Megan Feltes, Jasmine Hartman and Charlie Roos; and great grandchildren, Jordan and Mason Johnson; Samantha, Kyle and Asher Hartman; and Joe and Naomi Roos.

Charlie was a loyal and devoted husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather. He was also a dedicated journalist, with a passion for reporting and telling the truth to the people of