

that I have introduced with my colleague Senator CANTWELL. Few issues are as important to the American people as the availability of good jobs in our communities. Unemployment in Maine and across the country remains unacceptably high. We must continue working together to identify ways to improve job training initiatives to help people find jobs in fields where jobs exist.

I have met with many business owners in Maine who have jobs available but cannot find qualified and trained workers to fill these vacant positions. One way for employees to acquire the skills needed to thrive in in-demand fields is through apprenticeship programs. Apprentices get hands-on experience that is invaluable to employers and can help workers secure a good-paying job.

According to the Congressional Research Service, approximately 44,000 individuals graduated from apprenticeship programs in 2013 nearly 1,000 of those individuals were from Maine. However, that number is likely insufficient to meet tomorrow's needs. One manufacturer in Maine estimates that nearly 2.7 million manufacturing employees are expected to retire in the next decade. We must do all we can to ensure that an adequate pool of skilled workers is available to fill these good-paying jobs.

Our bill helps achieve this goal by giving tax credits to businesses that hire apprentices. To ensure that workers are given adequate time to prove their value, the apprentice must be employed for 7 months in order for a business to claim the credit. Our bill also provides incentives for experienced workers who spend at least 20 percent of their time passing their hard-earned knowledge on to the next generation. These workers would be allowed to receive some retirement income early, without facing tax penalties. Finally, our bill ensures that the brave men and women who defend our country are given credit for the skills they learn while serving. Training received while serving in the Armed Forces would count toward an apprentice's training requirement.

This bill would help better align the needs of our Nation's employers with potential employees to promote hiring and the creation of new jobs. I encourage all my colleagues to support this bill, and I am pleased to join Senator CANTWELL in introducing it.

TRIBUTE TO FRANKIE MUSE FREEMAN

Mrs. McCASKILL. Mr President, I wish to recognize a noble Missourian, the spirited and courageous Mrs. Frankie Muse Freeman. Fifty years ago today, this body confirmed Mrs. Freeman as President Lyndon B. Johnson's choice to be the first female Commissioner to serve on the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. She served honorably in this capacity for 16 years, hav-

ing been reappointed by Presidents Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter.

By the time President Johnson first nominated Mrs. Freeman to the Civil Rights Commission, she had worked tirelessly to end racial discrimination and secure equality, justice and fairness for every citizen. Born Marie Frankie Muse on November 24, 1916 in Danville, VA to parents who experienced the benefits of formal education and who in turn supported their daughter's educational pursuits, Frankie was educated in Virginia and attended college at the distinguished and well-known historically black college Hampton University. Almost 10 years after she started college, Frankie began her law school career at Howard University School of Law, where she graduated second in her class. Soon afterward, Frankie settled in St. Louis, MO, and began her successful career as a civil rights attorney. She worked on a variety of important civil rights issues ranging from education to hiring practices. Most notably in 1954, Frankie argued and won the fight against racial discrimination in public housing in the landmark NAACP case Davis et al. v. St. Louis Housing Authority. The following year, Frankie became the first associate general counsel of the St. Louis Housing Authority and Land Clearance Authority. Three years later in 1958, she joined the Missouri advisory committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. The quality and breadth of her work combined with her passion for advocacy eventually led to her selection as a U.S. Civil Rights commissioner.

In the five decades since her historic appointment, Frankie's energy and devotion to justice has not diminished. She has received appointments from former Presidents to serve on other service-related commissions. In addition, she worked as a municipal court judge for many years and was instrumental in the formation of the Citizens Commission on Civil Rights, an organization that seeks to ensure the Federal Government's vigilance in its enforcement of anti-discrimination laws. In addition to this public service, Frankie wrote a book about her storied life and career. Just 6 years ago at the age of 92, she retired after spending the latter part of her career in private practice. Not surprisingly, even retirement has not slowed Frankie down. She remains active on a number of urban and community service-based social welfare boards.

To countless residents of my State and across the country, Frankie Muse Freeman is a hero. She is a woman who grew up in Jim Crow-era South when racial segregation was legal. Growing up, if Frankie wanted to go somewhere, her options were to either walk or take the segregated streetcar. She witnessed first hand the harsh consequences of racial inequality and she chose to devote her entire career to ending that injustice. Frankie is an inspiration to

so many Americans, across all racial lines, and to me personally. She is a public servant whom my children and grandchildren can look up to. Because of leaders like her, who fought and sacrificed but ultimately believed in our country's ability to empathize and change, we are all better off and our lives more enriched.

Therefore, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mrs. Frankie Muse Freeman on the 50th anniversary of her Senate confirmation to the United States Commission on Civil Rights. In addition, I ask my colleagues to recognize Frankie's distinguished service to the people of this country.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

NEAL'S CAFÉ 70TH ANNIVERSARY

• Mr. BOOZMAN. I wish to celebrate 70 years of down-home cooking at Neal's CAFÉ in Springdale, AR.

Opened in 1944 by Toy and Bertha Neal, the restaurant is currently run by the family's fourth generation. Over the last 70 years, Neal's Café has been one of the most popular dining spots in northwest Arkansas.

Neal's is not just known for its menu of delicious comfort food. It is also a popular gathering spot for locals to catch-up and discuss family life, politics and the Razorbacks chances on the football field this week.

It is hard to miss the pink exterior of Neal's Café as you drive down N. Thompson Street. When you park your vehicle and step inside Neal's, the unique décor of the restaurant and the aroma of fried chicken immediately hit you. While fried chicken is among the most popular dishes at Neal's Café, visitors come from far and wide for the homemade pies as well.

Neal's Café is so much more than a restaurant. It is an integral part of the Springdale community. The Neal family has worked relentlessly to make it that way.

As someone who has experience starting a family business, I know how challenging of an endeavor it is to get off the ground, much less be successful to the level that the Neal family has been for the past 70 years. It is a testament to the family's commitment to quality, service and dedication to the community.

As the Neal family celebrates 70 years of operating Neal's Café, I would like to extend my wishes for many more years of serving food and fellowship at their Springdale institution.

I look forward to stopping by for some fried chicken and a slice of coconut cream pie very soon. •

TRIBUTE TO JAY AND MARY SAUNDERS

• Mr. JOHANNIS. Mr. President, each year, I have the honor of recognizing outstanding parents who have chosen to adopt as Angels in Adoption. I am

continually inspired by the number of families in Nebraska who have selflessly and lovingly opened their hearts to children without a permanent place to call home. Selecting just one family is always a difficult task, but this year Jay and Mary Saunders of Bellevue stood out from the others. I am pleased to announce Jay and Mary Saunders of Bellevue as 2014 "Angels in Adoption."

The Saunders have one biological son and have adopted six children: Nick, Ian, Nathan, Haylee, Mara, Christian, and Kevin. Nick, the eldest, is their biological child and born with special needs. Providing his specialized care moved the Saunders to open their home and hearts to adopting other children with disabilities.

Mary always knew she was meant to adopt and have a big family. When Nick was 4, 2-year-old Ian entered their lives. He suffered from Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, ADHD. But the moment they laid eyes on Ian, the Saunders knew he was meant to be part of their growing family.

Mara was adopted soon afterward. When she came to the Saunders through a private adoption, she required special needs that resulted from abuse she previously suffered. Today, Mary calls Mara her "lifes work" and "little guru."

It wasn't long before siblings Nathan, Haylee, Christian and Kevin were adopted together in March 2013, and were welcomed into the Saunders' growing family.

Throughout the past 15 years, the Saunders have worked to integrate immediate and extended families. This includes the birth families of some of the children. Mary often tells her children you can never have too many people "loving you."

Through hard work, compassion and a lot of love, Nick continues to defy his learning disabilities—excelling in high school and planning to enroll in college. Ian no longer has attachment issues or suffers from ADHD. Mara has learned to deal with her emotions without medication. Nathan recently won a best athlete award for the Omaha-area. Haylee and Christian's education has improved leaps and bounds since becoming part of the Saunders family. The youngest, Kevin, continues to relish in the footsteps of his older siblings. Together, the seven children continue to thrive and grow, thanks to Mary and Jay.

Each of the Saunders has been an inspiration to me. It is my hope and theirs that their family will serve as an inspiration to others who may be interested in pursuing foster care and adoption.

I want to again thank Mary and Jay for their work to improve the lives of their children and congratulate them once again on being selected as 2014 Angels in Adoption.●

RECOGNIZING THE CANYON LAKE ALL STARS

● Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the coaches and players of the Canyon Lake All-Stars of Rapid City, SD. The Canyon Lake All-Stars represented the Midwest Region in this year's Little League World Series.

It was only the third time in the 75-year history of the Little League World Series that a team from South Dakota made it to the tournament. This year's team joins the 2008 Canyon Lake All-Stars and the 2011 Harney All-Stars in representing South Dakota as the Midwest Region champions and becomes the first South Dakota team to win a Little League World Series game.

I wish to congratulate and recognize the hard-work of the 2014 Canyon Lake All-Stars. They represented South Dakota well in the national spotlight. Players on the team are Jake Kostenbauer, Logan Miller, Bridger Nesbit, Daniel Vigoren, Colton Hartford, Cooper Voorhees, Adam Salter, True Synhorst, Mason Litz, Matthew Hegre, Blake Weaver, and Dylan Richey. The manager is Rich Hegre, and assistant coaches are Steve Richey and Scott Spencer. Their efforts produced lasting memories and the entire state of South Dakota is proud of their accomplishments.●

RECOGNIZING LINDA LEA VIKEN

● Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize a South Dakota attorney who has distinguished herself on the local, State, and national level. Linda Lea Viken has been a successful practicing attorney in South Dakota since 1978. She was recently presented with the Trial Lawyer of the Year Award by the South Dakota Trial Lawyers Association during the association's annual meeting.

Specializing in family law for over 35 years, Linda Lea is the first family law specialist to receive the honor. She is a past president of the prestigious American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers and is also a diplomate of the American College of Family Trial Lawyers and is a certified family law trial attorney by the National Board of Trial Advocacy.

She has served twice in the South Dakota State Legislature and is a steadfast advocate for women, especially in the area of domestic violence and working to establish and maintain rights for women who need legal protection and services. She has significantly increased the awareness and education of the general public and the media on legal issues affecting women. She has served on a number of boards and in advisory capacities for organizations assisting women, children and families, including the South Dakota Coalition for Children, South Dakota Voices for Children, South Dakota Advocacy Network for Women, AAUW, Zonta, the West River Mental Health

Board, Black Hills Legal Services, and the Black Hills Regional Food Bank.

Ms. Viken is well known for her presentations, advocacy, insight, and work in developing laws, guidelines, and policies governing custody, child support, alimony, divorce, visitation, and protection.

I wish to recognize and congratulate Linda Lea Viken on her latest and well-deserved recognition as South Dakota Trial Lawyer of the Year.●

TRIBUTE TO BOB KERR

● Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, Rhode Islanders have opinions. Life in Rhode Island is a conversation, and in Rhode Island's ongoing public conversation about who we are as a community and as a nation, a thoughtful voice is suddenly missing. Bob Kerr, the long time metro columnist for the Providence Journal, has been let go from the paper.

Bob wrote for Rhode Island's largest paper for 43 years. He spent that time seeking out the people and the stories that made up the fabric of our State and told those stories with empathy, humor, and blunt honesty. One of his fellow ProJo alumni described him as "the Providence Journal's eloquent everyman."

When then-executive editor Joel Rawson first asked Bob to write a column, he had one simple instruction: "I want to hear Rhode Island talking." And that is just what Bob gave us, 3 mornings a week for more than 20 years.

Bob Kerr told the story of Rhode Island through the eyes of Rhode Islanders. He found people whose voices were not heard and gave them a giant microphone. He wrote about neighbors. He wrote about poor people. He wrote about musicians. He wrote about people looking for jobs and the people helping them find jobs. He even wrote about politicians. He wrote a lot about veterans. Bob served his country as a marine in Vietnam, and he paid close attention to the way we treat our servicemembers. He reminded us to keep fighting for those who fought for us.

Like an adopted conscience, Bob also kept us honest. One of his most popular features was the "Clemency Coach," an imaginary broken-down bus with duct-taped seats and stuck windows that Bob cooked up to, as he put it, "give people who have done publicly embarrassing things the time to get away and consider ways to make everything OK again."

"It is a bus bound for nowhere in particular."

Once a season, Bob would roll out the latest Clemency Coach passenger list, a who's-who of people whose behavior warranted a slap on the wrist or worse. Bob called out public figures and private citizens alike, local notables and national celebrities. I myself was dispatched on the summer run of the Clemency Coach a year or two ago for putting my foot in my mouth here in the Senate.