

global economy, improve the region's infrastructure, and build the Appalachian Development Highway System.

In working to make the region more economically competitive, ARC's model of development, based on community support, creates sustainable, lifelong solutions that likewise stress the value of service at all levels. The hundreds of annual projects funded by ARC, all of which address one or more of the strategic plan's goals, further demonstrate the intrinsic significance of public service and its vital role in planning for a better future.

ARC approves funding for more than 400 projects annually throughout the 13-State region, including both highway projects and access road projects. The projects have invested funding and resources in a range of sectors that directly impact economic development in the Appalachian region, including child development, community infrastructure, transportation, arts and culture, career and technical education.

Maryland's projects have included the formation of Allegany County Connect 2 Compete, created to boost educational achievement and attainment, and increasing health-care access through Allegany County Public Health Accreditation. Another federally funded program in Maryland, HRDC Head Start Facility, provides services to low-income families with small children, promoting school readiness, health, and parent involvement in an educational environment. In Frostburg, a project called Frostburg Grows: Grow it Local Greenhouse involves conversion of unused mined land into an innovative five-acre greenhouse and shade house complex, designed to create additional job opportunities, reduce food insecurity, and provide local and healthy food to the residents of Western Maryland.

As Hillary Clinton once remarked, "Aid chases need; investment chases opportunity." Al internalized this message, focusing on the implementation and improvement of reforms to foster, protect, and fully benefit the lives of Marylanders. This dedication to public service helped define and differentiate the various communities he served, and illustrates the many, varied possibilities of public service—not limited to elected office. Serving on scores of local, State, and national committees only cemented Al's involvement in civic life.

While Al championed community involvement and public service, ARC's structure also ensures an active Federal-State-local partnership rooted in cooperation. One of ARC's guiding principles is to support inclusive local decisionmaking, and to cultivate a collaborative problem-solving culture in which community achievements are made possible through collective efforts and investments. ARC's development of new strategic plans relies heavily on obtaining citizen input on high-priority regional issues, promoting homegrown solutions. ARC

awards program grants to State and local agencies, governmental entities, local governing boards, and nonprofit organizations: targeting the region's specific needs, and executing plans that reinforce the necessity of teamwork and commitment.

Al, too, recognized the fundamental importance of working together to strengthen the capacity of interdependent elements: individual leaders, organizations, and the community as a whole. Working in tandem, broad-based leadership structures and institutions not only spur change but also encourage the establishment of new business and economic opportunities that can strengthen a community while diversifying its base.

Just as ARC's strategy creates a framework for building on past accomplishments to help move Appalachia forward, so, too, did Al bridge his vision of the rich, fruitful past with his present—capitalizing on existing assets and acknowledging the importance of public service in improving communities. I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the contributions Al made to the State of Maryland and to our Nation.●

CONGRATULATING BOB CASHELL

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, I wish to congratulate Mayor Bob Cashell, of Reno, on his retirement. After serving as the mayor of Reno for 12 years, Mayor Cashell presided over his last city council meeting on November 12, 2014. It gives me great pleasure to congratulate him not only as a colleague but also as a friend on his retirement after more than 35 years of hard work and dedication to the Silver State.

A devoted husband and proud father of four, Mayor Cashell stands as a shining example of someone who has dedicated his life to serving his community. Upon graduating from the Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, TX, with a bachelor's degree in business, Mayor Cashell moved to Reno to work as a truckdriver and salesman for a small refining company in 1961. Several years after moving to Nevada, Mayor Cashell and his colleagues were able to purchase a small casino-restaurant in 1967, which would later become known as Boomtown Casino and Hotel. His impressive business expertise has allowed him to continue on to manage and own several large properties across Nevada and the United States. Serving as the chairman of the board for his business, Cashell Enterprises, a hotel casino and management company, he quickly became a business leader within the local gaming community. After a long and distinguished career in gaming, Mayor Cashell decided that he also wanted to pursue a new endeavor and give back to his community.

Mayor Cashell's public career began in 1979 when he ran for the University of Nevada System Board of Regents and was subsequently elected chairman

by his peers. After his tenure as a respected member of the board, Mayor Cashell was then elected Lieutenant Governor for the State of Nevada in 1982. In his role as Lieutenant Governor, he was instrumental in the founding of the Nevada Commission on Economic Development and the Nevada Commission on Tourism—both of which he served on as chairman. Upon being sworn in as mayor on November 13, 2002, Mayor Cashell worked diligently to ensure the city continues to thrive and to make Reno the renowned place for gaming that it is today. His roles in establishing the Truckee River Whitewater Park, opening the Community Assistance Center for the homeless, helping to extend the Reno Bowler's Convention contract, and founding the YMCA Youth Soccer League are just a few of the accomplishments that exemplify the legacy that Mayor Cashell will leave behind upon his retirement.

His service to the Reno community goes far beyond the many positions he has held in the Silver State over the years. Mayor Cashell also served his country in the U.S. Air Force. I extend my deepest gratitude to Mayor Cashell for his courageous contributions to the United States of America and to freedom-loving nations around the world. His service to his country and his bravery and dedication to his family and community earn him a place among the outstanding men and women who have valiantly defended our Nation. As a member of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I recognize that Congress has a responsibility not only to honor these brave individuals who serve America but also to ensure they are cared for when they return home.

I am grateful for his dedication and commitment to the people of Reno and to the State of Nevada. He personifies the highest standards of leadership and community service and should be proud of his long and meaningful career. Today, I ask that all of my colleagues join me in congratulating Mayor Cashell on his retirement, and I offer my deepest appreciation for all that he has done to make Nevada an even better place. I offer my best wishes to Mayor Cashell and his wife Nancy for many successful and fulfilling years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL CHARLES H. JACOBY, JR.

● Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, in a few short weeks a thoughtful and inspirational military leader will retire after serving his country proudly for 36 years. Today I recognize and commend my good friend GEN Charles H. Jacoby, Jr., of the U.S. Army for his exceptional leadership over those 36 years, most recently in his role as commander of the North American Aerospace Defense Command and United States Northern Command. It has been a tremendous pleasure to work closely with General Jacoby. I know many of my

colleagues join me in congratulating him on a job well done and in wishing him well as he begins a well-deserved retirement.

General Jacoby graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1978 and received his commission into the infantry as a second lieutenant. His command experience include Commander, A Company, 2d Battalion, Airborne, 325th Infantry, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, NC, and Operation URGENT FURY, Grenada; commander, 1st Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, NC; commander, Joint Task Force-Bravo, United States Southern Command, Honduras and Operation FUERTE APOYO, Strong Support, Hurricane Mitch; commanding general, U.S. Army Alaska and deputy commander, United States Alaskan Command; and commanding general, I Corps, including a combat tour in Iraq serving as the commanding general, Multi-National Corps-Iraq. Prior to his current assignment, he served as the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff's director, Strategic Plans and Policy (J5) and as senior member, U.S. Delegation to the United Nations Military Staff Committee, the Joint Staff.

It was during General Jacoby's assignments as commanding general, United States Army Alaska, and deputy commander, United States Alaskan Command, that we forged an enduring friendship based on trust and mutual respect. We have worked tough issues over the years, and I have always known him to be a man of his word. He is a great friend of mine and a true friend to Alaska.

General Jacoby has served as the commander of NORAD and USNORTHCOM for the past 3½ years with great distinction. He provided inspired vision, strategic focus and priorities, consistent operational and organizational excellence, and exceptional hands-on leadership not only for the people of his two commands but also in support of the commands' many international, interagency, nongovernmental organization, State, local, and private sector partners. Further, he honed important working relationships between USNORTHCOM and the National Guard, especially in implementation and execution of the dual status commander concept.

Perhaps most importantly, he was recognized earlier this year for his efforts to strengthen military ties between the United States and Mexico by General Salvador Cienfuegos Zepeda, Secretary of the National Defense Forces, and Admiral Vidal Francisco Soberon Sanz, Secretary of the Navy. They honored General Jacoby in a formal military ceremony attended by thousands of the Mexican military as the only U.S. military officer ever to receive the Mexican Military Merit 1st Class Award and the Mexican Naval Award, the highest awards possible for a non-Mexican, for his many contribu-

tions in support of the Mexican armed forces.

General Jacoby's unique combination of experience, charismatic leadership, and intelligence served him well as the commander during difficult times overseas and at home with some tough decisions about the future of our country. His long and distinguished record of exceptional service to our country serves as the gold standard for general officers, and we wish him and his family all the best. To this battle-hardened infantry paratrooper, we say a fond "keep your feet and knees together" as you jump into the next exciting chapter of your life.●

REMEMBERING SERGEANT FIRST CLASS RICHARD DEMERS

● Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I wish to memorialize a New Hampshire son and proud member of the United States Army, SFC Richard Louis Demers. Sergeant Demers was born in Manchester on December 31, 1966 and spent his young life there, graduating from Manchester Memorial High School in 1985. His lengthy career in the Army spanned 22 years, including a tour of duty in Iraq, as well as tours in Germany, Colorado, Texas, Hawaii and most recently Missouri.

Sergeant Demers' choice to dedicate his career to protecting our freedom and security is the essence of American patriotism. It is my hope that during this extremely difficult time, Richard's family and friends will find comfort in knowing that Americans everywhere appreciate deeply his selfless service in defense of our country.

Sergeant Demers is survived by his wife of 28 years, Karen, Gagne, Demers, of Laquey, MO; their two sons, Jonathan Demers and his wife Megan, of Georgia, and Shawn Demers and his wife Nadine, of Washington; five grandchildren; two siblings, Michelle Champagne and her husband Roland, of Allentown, NH, and David Demers and his wife, Marcia, of Florida; and many nieces and nephews. This patriot will be missed by all.

On behalf of the people of New Hampshire, I ask my colleagues and all Americans to join me in honoring the life and service of this brave American, Richard Demers.●

REMEMBERING SERGEANT FIRST CLASS MARK GULEZIAN

● Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, it is with great sadness I rise today to honor the life and service of SFC Mark Gerald Gulezian, a New Hampshire native who died on October 10. Mark was born on December 28, 1978 in Manchester, NH and was raised in nearby Londonderry, where he was a graduate of Londonderry High School. He joined the U.S. Army in 1998, and over the course of his career served two tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, in addition to a tour in Korea. Sergeant Gulezian was most recently stationed at Fort Bragg

in North Carolina with the Army's distinguished 3rd Special Forces Group, Airborne.

Mark will forever be a member of the special community of Americans who bravely and selflessly vow to defend our country so that the rest of us may continue to live in peace and freedom. It is my hope that during this extremely difficult time, Mark's family and friends will find comfort in knowing that Americans everywhere deeply appreciate his commitment and service to our nation.

Mark is survived by his parents Jerry and Dotty of Londonderry, NH; his wife, Blair Anastasia Gulezian, of Raeford, NC; children Amira Gulezin and Dylan Gulezian, both of Richmond, VA; a stepson, Christopher, of Pennsylvania; his brother, Steven Gulezian of Londonderry and his girlfriend, Sara Hickey; and niece, Ambree Page "S.J." Gulezian; also his two dogs, Whiskey and Lucie. This patriot will be missed by all.

On behalf of the people of New Hampshire, I ask my colleagues and all Americans to join me in honoring the life and service of this brave American, Mark Gulezian.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:31 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 bills, without amendment:

S. 2673. An act to enhance the strategic partnership between the United States and Israel.

S. 2917. An act to expand the program of priority review to encourage treatments for tropical diseases.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 5769. An act to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 120. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for a ceremony to present the Congressional Gold Medal to the World War II members of the Civil Air Patrol.

The message further announced that the House agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the text of the bill (H.R. 669) to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve the health of children and help better understand and enhance awareness about unexpected sudden death in early life, and an amendment to the title.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 4:14 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 2040. An act to exchange trust and fee land to resolve land disputes created by the