

1978 to 04/03/1982; Department of Transportation/MARAD, 04/04/1982 to 12/24/1983; Department of Transportation/FAA, 12/25/1983 to 06/04/1988; Department of Transportation/FRA, 6/05/1988 to 11/03/2001; and Department of Transportation/OST, 11/04/2001 to Present.

Ms. Harrison currently works in the Office of Governmental Affairs at U.S. DOT, where she has been of assistance to my office and constituents numerous of times. I am sure that every office in the U.S. Senate benefited directly from her good works. As much as her colleagues at U.S. DOT will miss her, she has earned the right to spend more time with her friends and family, especially her granddaughter whose pictures adorn the desk of her office. She has earned the deepest of gratitude from those of us in the U.S. Senate. Above all else, she has earned the thanks of the country she has so unselfishly served for over 41 years. Thank you Ms. Harrison.●

TRIBUTE TO REBECCA SCHMIDT

● Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I would like to recognize the outstanding career of Rebecca L. Schmidt, who retired in 2014 after 30 years of dedicated service in the Federal Government. For the last 8 years of her career, Ms. Schmidt served the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission as the Director of the Office of Congressional Affairs. In that position, she brought to the agency a fresh approach to congressional relations, implementing a more rigorous and proactive liaison role with congressional offices as well as expanding the office's outreach to other Federal agencies and external groups. She received the Meritorious Executive Presidential Rank Award in 2010 in recognition of her valuable contributions to the agency, including her organizational and communications skills and her ability to build better relationships between the NRC, Congress and community groups.

Ms. Schmidt started her career in the Congressional Budget Office, and later was selected for the Presidential Management Intern Program, where she participated in executive development assignments throughout government. Ms. Schmidt's assignments included working in the Office of Program Analysis and Evaluation for the Army Chief of Staff; the Budget Division at Army Western Command Headquarters, Hawaii; the Management Secretariat and the National Security Division at OMB; and the House Budget Committee.

She later worked for the U.S. Army Support Command in Hawaii, where she supervised analysts responsible for formulating long-run strategic plans and performing management studies for the installation. For the next 7 years she worked for the Congress serving as a senior defense and international affairs analyst for the House Budget Committee and then as a senior professional staff member of the House

Armed Services Committee where she briefed Members of Congress on technical budget matters and legislative language for the Defense authorization bill.

Following her time working for Congress, Ms. Schmidt spent the next 10 years working for the Secretary of Defense. Her service included evaluating costs and benefits for operating bases as the Deputy Director of the Base Closure Office; serving as staff assisting the members of Secretary Cohen's Defense Reform Task Force; and as a budget analyst developing the Department of Defense's 5-year budget for the Under Secretary of Defense, Comptroller. Prior to her work at the NRC, Ms. Schmidt served 6 years in the Senior Executive Service as the Associate Director for Budget Presentation and Congressional Liaison in the Office of the Secretary of Defense for the Comptroller. She was responsible for preparing the Secretary of Defense, the Deputy Secretary of Defense, and the Comptroller for all budget hearings before Congress.

Over the years, she worked for four NRC Chairmen, three Secretaries of Defense and four congressional committee chairmen. She contributed her knowledge of nuclear, defense, and budget process issues and became skillful in political strategy, strategic planning and management analysis. During her three decades of public service, she demonstrated integrity, a commitment to excellence, and outstanding leadership.

Ms. Schmidt received a bachelor's degree from Wittenberg University and earned a master's degree in public policy analysis from Duke University. She has remained a loyal supporter of the Blue Devils since her graduate school days, and her blue frosted cupcakes and enthusiasm for her basketball team will be greatly missed by her congressional affairs staff during March Madness and regular season games.●

TRIBUTE TO RUSS SMITH

● Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, on behalf of the Delaware Delegation, I wish to honor the exemplary service of the superintendent of the First State National Historical Park, Mr. Russell P. Russ Smith. A native of New Castle, DE, and a devoted husband to his wife Jacqueline, two sons and two grandchildren, Russ returned to Delaware in May 2013 to cap his 42-year career with the National Park Service at the First State National Historical Park.

Russ began working for the National Park Service shortly after earning a degree in American history from the University of Delaware. For the 10 years prior to his work in Delaware, he managed Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park in Fredericksburg, VA. His 28 years of field experience have included assignments at Prince William Forest Park, Fort Sumter National Monument, Independence National Historical Park, Hopewell

Furnace National Historic Site and George Washington Birthplace National Monument.

In 11 years at Independence National Historical Park, Russ oversaw nearly 100 employees and was responsible for telling the park's great story in American history by planning interpretive programs, creating museum and outdoor exhibits, and developing videos and publications. In 1989, Russ continued telling America's great stories when he was named chief of interpretation and visitor services for the Mid-Atlantic region, a position in which he pioneered the current interpretive planning system used by the National Park Service.

It is fitting that his long career led him back to Delaware, where in March of 2013, President Barack Obama authorized sites in Delaware to be a part of the First State National Monument. The monument tells the story of early colonial settlement leading up to the ratification of the constitution. For the first time, Delaware was included in the National Park System, and Russ was back home, leading the monument as superintendent. Under his watch, the First State National Monument turned into the First State National Historical Park, finally giving Delaware the national park it long deserved.

Russ has received the Mid-Atlantic Region's Freeman Tilden Award, the highest award for interpretation, the Director's Design Award for his interpretive plan for the Edgar Allan Poe National Historic Site, a Superior Service Award from the Department of the Interior for redesigning the National Park Service interpretive planning system and the National Park Service's Appleman-Judd-Lewis Award for excellence in cultural resource management.

Russ is a visionary and a leader. His work touched as many as 70 national park units from Maine to West Virginia and has allowed Americans and visitors from around the world to understand and enjoy the history and beauty that our Nation's national parks and monuments hold. Russ has devoted his life's work to our Nation's park service and has done a tremendous job of inspiring others to enjoy our Nation's history.

On behalf of Senator CHRIS COONS and Congressman JOHN CARNEY, I wholeheartedly thank Russ for his 42 years of service to the National Park Service and to our Nation. His model leadership and dedication to educate those of all generations is his legacy. We offer our sincere congratulations on a job well done, and wish him, his wife Jacqueline, and their family many happy, healthy and successful years to come.●

REMEMBERING MELVIN MARK RICHARDSON

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I wish to honor the life of Mel Richardson, an

Idaho leader with a legacy in public service and broadcasting, who passed away last week.

Mel Richardson's radio broadcasting career thankfully brought him and his wife of 61 years, Dixie, to Idaho more than six decades ago. And we are better for it. Over the span of his 62-year radio and television broadcasting career, Mel hosted several sports and public affairs programs and was a sportscaster for professional, college and high school athletics.

He also devoted considerable time to public service. During the Korean war, he served in the Active Army Reserves and later was the first elected mayor of the City of Ammon, where he led significant public works projects, paving the way for the town's future progress. I was honored to serve in the Idaho State Legislature with him. During my time in the Idaho State Senate, he served in the Idaho House of Representatives, and was elected to the Idaho State Senate seat I vacated when I was elected to Congress in 1992. For 16 years, he served in the Idaho State Senate, where he utilized his position to expand education opportunities for Idaho students by furthering the adoption of technology in Idaho schools.

Mel served our community and Idaho with civility and excellence. In addition to his tenure in the legislature, he served in numerous other positions. These included serving as director of Idaho Association of Cities; co-chairman of the Idaho Centennial Commission; Bonneville County Recreation commissioner; chairman of the American Family Institute; and chairman of the United Way. His exemplary work was recognized through numerous awards and honors that included being named Legislator of the Year by the Idaho State Republican Party, Idaho Library Association, State Farm Bureau and Idaho School Administrators.

He was also active in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, in which he served in numerous leadership positions. Additionally, he supported the Boy Scouts of America through which he was the recipient of the Silver Beaver Award of Merit. Mel also recognized the life lessons afforded in sports and instilled these values through coaching youth athletic teams.

Mel welcomed me as a regular guest on the radio program he hosted with his son, Mark, who continues to host the talk show. I greatly admired Mel's openness in taking all sides of an issue into account, and his kindness and consideration. Mel had one of the greatest qualities: As his son, Todd, recognized, "He could disagree with you without being disagreeable." I could always count on an interesting, thoughtful discussion, and I looked forward each week to our conversations.

But among all those accomplishments and public accolades, Mel's pride and strength was found in his family and home. He and Dixie raised five children, who have all gone on to contribute to their own communities. He loved the time that he spent with

them; in fact, he passed up some interesting career opportunities to ensure that he would be able to spend time with them. Mel's enthusiasm and joy in life can also be found in his 25 grandchildren and 28 great-grandchildren.

I extend my deep condolences to Dixie, their children and his many family members and friends. We are all better for having known him, and his legacy of thoughtfulness, inclusiveness and devotion to furthering opportunities for others and Idaho's future will not be forgotten.●

RECOGNIZING THE YOUNG MARINES

● Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I wish to state for the record my support for the Young Marines and their work to help reduce drug abuse in America. The abuse of drugs plagues our communities, disrupts our schools, and has a negative effect not only on the people who use drugs, but their communities as well. Drug abuse devastates our families, children and neighborhoods.

I support programs that demonstrate effective strategies to decrease drug abuse. As one of the largest drug prevention programs in the Nation, the Red Ribbon Campaign educates our youth about the problems and risks associated with drug use. The Young Marines' effort to educate and inform community members through the Red Ribbon Campaign helps increase awareness about drug abuse, and in turn, helps reduce the demand for drugs.

The Young Marines is a national nonprofit youth education and service program for boys and girls, age 8 through the completion of high school. The Young Marines promotes the mental, moral and physical development of its members. The program focuses on teaching the values of leadership, teamwork and self-discipline so its members can live and promote a healthy, drug-free lifestyle. This program was brought to my attention earlier this year by Branson Coiteux of Portland, OR who himself is a Young Marine and is working hard to educate his fellow students about the dangers of drug abuse. Each year Brandon and his fellow Young Marines participate in the national Red Ribbon Week and help educate and raise awareness about drug abuse.

We need more groups like the Young Marines and programs to fight drug abuse and bring the discussion about drug abuse out in the open and educate our children about the dangerous effects that drug abuse can have on our families. I thank them for their hard work and service and hope that we can end the devastating effect that drugs have on our Nation.●

REMEMBERING JOYCE CRAIG LEWIS

● Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, today, I honor fallen Philadelphia firefighter, Joyce Craig Lewis. Ms. Craig Lewis tragically perished on Tuesday, December 9, 2014, while courageously battling

a house fire in the West Oak Lane section of Philadelphia.

Ms. Craig Lewis was a proud 11-year veteran of the Philadelphia Fire Department and a certified EMT. A native of Philadelphia, Ms. Craig Lewis was one of 58 women among the nearly 1,800 firefighters in the city. Joyce served in several of the most active firehouses in Philadelphia.

Philadelphia Fire Commissioner Derrick Sawyer praised Ms. Craig Lewis for having a strong work ethic as evidenced by her desire to be stationed in challenging environments. Mayor Michael Nutter aptly stated that her passing is a tremendous loss for Philadelphians.

Joyce Craig Lewis is the first female firefighter in Philadelphia to die in the line of duty. She is survived by her 16-year-old son and 16-month-old daughter.

On behalf of the U.S. Senate, I wish to express my condolences to her family, friends, brothers and sisters in fire departments across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. May she rest in peace.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 4:20 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HARRIS) has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 2338. An act to reauthorize the United States Anti-Doping Agency, and for other purposes.

S. 3008. An act to extend temporarily the extended period of protection for members of uniformed services relating to mortgages, mortgage foreclosure, and eviction, and for other purposes.

H.R. 83. An act making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2591. An act to amend certain provisions of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012.

H.R. 5859. An act to impose sanctions with respect to the Russian Federation, to provide additional assistance to Ukraine, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-364. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Michigan requesting the Congress of the United States to prohibit the U.S. Postal Service from closing or consolidating the mail processing and distribution center in Lansing, Michigan; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 189

Whereas, On January 5, 2015, the United States Postal Service plans to close or consolidate the mail processing and distribution center (P&DC) on Collins Road in Lansing; and