

Hornets and the St. Elizabeth community, and her legacy will continue to impact future generations through the foundations she helped put in place, so her induction into the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame comes as no surprise. I congratulate Coach Juergensmeyer on her many successes and wish her the best in her future endeavors.●

#### RECOGNIZING ROD DANIELS

● Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I wish to recognize WBAL-TV 11 anchorman Rod Daniels for his career of journalistic service to the residents of the Greater Baltimore area. Mr. Daniels has been a trusted voice on WBAL-TV 11 for more than 30 years, and his steady and colorful reporting has remained consistent and creative throughout that time. On the occasion of his final nightly broadcast, which will occur this Friday, I would like to thank Mr. Daniels both for his years of service and his dedication to bringing viewers the nightly news with a regular measure of hope.

At the time of his retirement, Mr. Daniels will have distinguished himself as the longest continually serving nightly news anchor in the Baltimore media market, no small accomplishment against the backdrop of industry-wide newsroom downsizing that has characterized the media business during much of his career. Mr. Daniels came to Baltimore in 1984 and has been there for the city through tragedies like the 9/11 attacks and all-too-recent riots following the death of Freddie Gray. His exclusive coverage when the Roman Catholic Church elevated Baltimore archbishops to its College of Cardinals rightly garnered national awards. So it was no surprise, then, that Baltimore turned to Mr. Daniels when it was time to host the welcome celebration for Pope John Paul II at Camden Yards, an enormous compliment and honor.

Throughout his career, Mr. Daniels has shown an ongoing commitment to craft, charity, and community. He has spent countless hours speaking to school groups, serving on the boards of organizations like the National Aquarium in Baltimore, and hosting events to battle deadly diseases like cystic fibrosis and cancer. Mr. Daniels even has taken the Polar Bear Plunge into the frigid waters of the Chesapeake Bay to help a worthy cause, while finding the time to film public service announcements against animal cruelty.

Mr. Daniels began his career as a weekend sports anchor at WIS-TV in Columbia, SC. He then moved to WTAE-TV in Pittsburgh as a weekend anchor and reporter, and then moved to WISN-TV in Milwaukee. Mr. Daniels is an alumnus of William Patterson University in Wayne, NJ, and received the Legacy Award for Distinguished Alumni from the William Patterson University Foundation in 2011. He also has completed enrichment programs through the Community Film Workshop Council.

I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing sincere appreciation and congratulations to Mr. Daniels for his many contributions and accomplishments throughout his distinguished career.●

#### CONGRATULATING ESTHER B. NEWMAN

● Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I wish to recognize Esther B. Newman, the founder and chief executive officer of Leadership Montgomery, a not-for-profit community organization dedicated to public service and management training in Montgomery County, MD. Mrs. Newman's vision of compassionate outreach, effective and inspirational leadership, and community improvement have long nurtured the people of Montgomery County, effecting positive change for nearly 40 years.

Ms. Newman was born and raised in Washington, DC. She began her secondary education while balancing the responsibilities of motherhood. She graduated from Montgomery College, one of Maryland's premier community colleges, with an associate's degree in mental health in 1975. She later earned a B.A. in human service administration from Antioch University and an M.S. in applied behavioral science from Johns Hopkins University.

The foundations of Ms. Newman's legacy of public service were established shortly after her graduation from Montgomery College when she established the Family Life Center of Montgomery County in 1976, where she served as director until 1979. She then transitioned into work at Olney, MD's Montgomery General Hospital as a public relations consultant, simultaneously contributing to the local *Courier-Gazette* newspapers as a community correspondent and serving as an officer on the Upper Montgomery Community Mental Health Center Citizens Advisory Committee.

Throughout the 1980s, Ms. Newman continued to serve in an extensive capacity across Montgomery County, encompassing a diverse portfolio of health care focused outreach, volunteer service, and civic leadership positions. In 1981, Ms. Newman joined the Olney Chamber of Commerce and became a board member in 1984. By 1983, she had moved into a leadership role as the program director of the YWCA of Montgomery County and later joined the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce, where she held the role of executive director from 1986 through 1988.

As the decade drew to a close, Ms. Newman drew on her years of public service and leadership experience and formulated a curriculum of management training retreats, lectures, and educational guidelines. She worked with the late Larry Pignone of the United Way to establish Leadership Montgomery in 1989, where she has served as director ever since. The core program of Leadership Montgomery, which incorporates youth, business ex-

ecutive, senior, and emerging leader training modules, is aimed at inspiring the next generation of business and civic leaders in Montgomery County and beyond. Above all, Leadership Montgomery strives to establish a more inclusive management community, comprised of leaders of diverse backgrounds and perspectives.

In the 26 years since its founding, Leadership Montgomery has enriched and educated more than 2,000 graduates. The success of this mission is reflected in the program's accomplished alumni, with local Board of Education members, Circuit Court judges, members of both the Maryland Senate and House of Delegates, and Montgomery County Councilmembers among them.

Throughout her career in public life, Esther Newman has also helped to raise more than \$5 million in contributions for scholarships and programs, in addition to nearly \$3 million of in-kind donations. For her unparalleled commitment to service, generosity, and tireless devotion to the betterment of Montgomery County, she has been recognized with numerous accolades, including Jewish Women International's Women to Watch Community Leadership Award in 2011, the Corporate Volunteer Council President's Award in 2009, the Victims' Rights Foundation's Game Changer Award in 2014, and an honorary degree in public service from her alma mater Montgomery College in 2002.

Ms. Newman will be retiring from her position as director of Leadership Montgomery in September, after more than a quarter-century of education and guidance. Her compassionate spirit, inspirational leadership, and unwavering devotion to civic improvement have long inspired the greater Montgomery County community. Many of the people Ms. Newman have touched have taken the lessons that they have learned at Leadership Montgomery into business and government. Though she will soon step down as a director, I have no doubt that Ms. Newman will continue to be involved in the community and will continue to inspire others to enter leadership roles. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing her all the best for a restful and fulfilling retirement.●

#### TRIBUTE TO DAVID G. BAKERIAN

● Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, it is with great pleasure that I rise on behalf of the Delaware delegation to honor the service of David G. Bakerian upon his retirement as president, CEO and treasurer of the Delaware Bankers Association. David has dedicated the past 22 years of his life to helping lead the banking industry and keeping it alive and thriving in Delaware for the countless people it employs and serves.

As president of the Delaware Bankers Association, David's priority has been to ensure that a significant part of America's banking industry—one of Delaware's top employers—maintained

its home in in the First State and continues to thrive while serving customers in the First State and around the world. Tens of thousands of Delawareans rely on the good jobs that our State's financial services provide, jobs that have enhanced the lives of many. Dave is known for being honest, and even if someone didn't always like the answer, they respected him for doing the right thing, not what was easy or expedient. He also is admired for his positive, can-do attitude regardless of the magnitude of the challenges he and the members of the Delaware Bankers Association have faced over the years.

Over more than two decades, David has worked with three Governors and testified before and advised 11 separate Delaware General Assemblies on a variety of banking legislative matters, including credit cards, trust administration, interstate banking and branching, foreclosure mediation, and consumer protection. In 2001, David led the Delaware Bankers Association in a cooperative venture with the University of Delaware's Center for Economic Education and Entrepreneurship, the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, and the Consumer Credit Counseling Services of Delaware and Maryland to form Keys to Financial Success, a high school credit course focusing on financial literacy. The program is still offered today in 28 high schools in Delaware with more than 4,200 students participating. In 2004, David was elected to a 1-year chairmanship of the State Association Division of the American Bankers Association. In this role, he became the national spokesperson for the 50 State bankers associations and held a seat on the American Bankers Association board of directors. He is the only Delawarean ever to serve in this national leadership role. His service in that role is a source of pride to our State.

While David is passionate about banking, he actually began his career in education and studied to become a college professor. He possesses a remarkable ability to write clearly and communicate effectively. Those skills have helped him go on to such a successful career in banking, in part because of his ability to explain highly complex issues to almost anyone and everyone. His passion for education can be seen in his own academic achievements. After receiving his bachelor's degree from Siena College in New York, he went on to receive a master's degree from the University of West Florida and a postgraduate certificate in higher education administration from the University of Pennsylvania. Prior to his appointment at the Delaware Bankers Association, he served as executive director of the Delaware Chapter of the American Institute of Banking. He began his tenure at Delaware AIB in 1985 and oversaw the educational unit.

Through his tireless efforts, David Bakerian has made a positive difference in not only the banking com-

munity but the education community and the community writ large. I am delighted to salute David and thank him for his many years of service to Delaware and to congratulate him on a truly remarkable and distinguished career. I know he looks forward to spending more time with his grandchildren in his garden and refining his culinary skills in the kitchen. In closing, on behalf of the people of Delaware, as well as on behalf of Senator COONS and Congressman CARNEY, I want to wish David and his wife Pam, his son Nick, and his daughters Alex and Catherine, along with his son-in-law Jeff and his grandchildren Adam and Madeline, the very best in all that lies ahead.●

#### TRIBUTE TO DEBORAH BLONG

● Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I wish to commend Deborah Blong from Missoula, MT, who was recently recognized as the recipient of the American Network of Community Options and Resources 2015 Direct Support Professional, DSP, of the Year Award for the State of Montana.

This award recognizes Ms. Blong's dedication and hard work every day in her efforts to support members of the Montana community with intellectual, developmental, and other significant disabilities. Ms. Blong's selflessness is clear. In addition to taking care of her husband who suffers from Parkinson's disease, she manages a home with eight residents—four have Prader-Willi syndrome and three others struggle with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. She works 14-hour days, often 6 to 7 days a week.

Deborah Blong makes a difference each and every day for those whom she cares for. For 20 years, Ms. Blong has been a positive influence on those around her. For her efforts, Ms. Blong has earned the thanks of a grateful State.●

#### CONGRATULATING NOELLE VERHELST

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today, I wish to congratulate Noelle Verhelst on being selected not only as Nevada's Cherry Blossom Princess for the 2015 Centennial Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington, DC, but also on being selected as U.S. Cherry Blossom Queen. Ms. Verhelst is the first Nevada Cherry Blossom Princess to be selected as U.S. Cherry Blossom Queen, a well-deserved accolade.

Ms. Verhelst is a shining example of someone who truly cherishes the Silver State. She was raised in Las Vegas and attended the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, receiving her bachelor's degree in political science. Prior to moving to Washington, DC, she worked in Governor Brian Sandoval's Office of Economic Development. She currently works for Congressman JOE HECK (NV-3) as a legislative correspondent. Her dedication and service to the great State of Nevada are greatly appreciated.

Ms. Verhelst was chosen in February by the Nevada State Society to represent Nevada in the National Conference of State Societies and the Cherry Blossom Princess Program. Nevada is proud to support one of our own as she joins young women from across the Nation in community involvement and educational, leadership, and cultural activities throughout the year. In April, she was selected as U.S. Cherry Blossom Queen at the Official Cherry Blossom Grand Ball and Coronation of the United States Cherry Blossom Queen, a tradition that began in 1948. As U.S. Cherry Blossom Queen, Ms. Verhelst will have the opportunity to represent both the Silver State and the United States while she visits the Japan Prime Minister, Shinzo Abe, during her official United States Cherry Blossom Queen Goodwill Ambassador trip in May.

I am proud to recognize Ms. Verhelst on her excellent representation of Nevada in her role as Nevada Cherry Blossom Princess and U.S. Cherry Blossom Queen. She should be proud of her achievements.

I join the citizens of Nevada in congratulating Ms. Verhelst on her accomplishment and wish her all the best during her United States Cherry Blossom Queen Goodwill Ambassador trip and in all of her future endeavors.●

#### CONGRATULATING DR. COLLEEN CRIPPS

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today, I wish to congratulate Dr. Colleen Cripps on her retirement after serving the great State of Nevada for 25 years with the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, NDEP. It gives me great pleasure to recognize her years of hard work and commitment to making the Silver State the best it can be.

Dr. Cripps stands as a true example of someone who has spent many years dedicated to her home State. She was born in Ely, NV, and she received her master of arts in public administration and her doctor of philosophy in biochemistry from the University of Nevada, Reno. Throughout her career with NDEP, Dr. Cripps served as chief of the Bureau of Air Quality; deputy administrator, responsible for the agency's Air, Waste, and Federal Facilities Bureau; and acting administrator and administrator of NDEP. Her positive legacy in the department will be felt for years to come.

Dr. Cripps' commitment to her cause goes beyond her career. She served on numerous industry-related boards, such as the National Association of Clean Air Agencies, NACAA's, executive board from 2003 to 2009, serving as president, and the Western States Air Resources Council's board, serving on the executive committee and as vice president. She also represented Nevada in the Western Regional Air Partnership and was one of Nevada's observers in the Western Climate Initiative. Her years of service to the Silver State are invaluable.