

overseas in Japan for 2 of those years as a court stenographer, he took the time to learn the language, culture, and customs—demonstrating an appreciation for serving people and a knack for communication that would lend itself to Wally's own work and character years later.

Wally tells everyone he meets that he has what money cannot buy. He is revered as one of the most generous and selfless individuals who has devoted his life to giving back, not just to the community, but to others who gave him the opportunity to be successful in life. Wally lent his time and energy to over 50 nonprofits and has been a member of the Lions Club for over 40 years. He sent dozens of children to summer camp, often paying for their experience himself. Since 1969, Wally has helped expand the local Toys for Tots program, where he has donated gifts and toys to ensure a joyful holiday season for all children.

Wally Reney embodies the true spirit of the American dream, and, in turn, has encouraged countless others to achieve their own dreams. Wally has improved the quality of life in the Granite State and epitomizes the great New Hampshire tradition of being a good neighbor. I am extraordinarily proud to recognize and celebrate Wally. I wish him the best for a happy and healthy retirement.●

TRIBUTE TO RALPH SHOWER

● Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I wish to honor Ralph Shower of St. Louis, MO, on his upcoming 100th birthday on July 6, 2015. As a dedicated family man, heroic World War II veteran, and successful business professional, he has made his family, community, and the entire State of Missouri proud to call him one of our own.

Born and raised in St. Louis, Mr. Shower attended Soldan High School, where he participated in varsity track and field. His dad ran a hotel and restaurant supply business, and in his younger years, he worked with his father at the family business.

As mentioned before, Mr. Shower honorably served in the U.S. Army's 517 Signal Company, 17th Airborne Division, during World War II. While serving, he suffered from serious injuries in a paratrooper glider accident from which he fully recovered, and he has continued to live a full and healthy life. To this day, he has remained actively involved in his community through the local veterans service organizations.

After leaving the Army, Mr. Shower began a career in public relations management, serving various charity organizations, including the Leukemia Guild of Missouri and the City of Hope Hospital in Durate, CA.

Even with his military and professional successes, Shower has always prioritized his family above all else. He and Ethel, his late wife of 70 years, had three children. Michael Shower, his

son, held an esteemed position as the executive secretary and counselor to the executive director of UNICEF up until his passing in 1994. Mr. Shower has two beloved daughters, Suzanne Shower and Michelle Proctor, along with two granddaughters and five great-granddaughters.

Forty-seven of Mr. Shower's relatives will be traveling to the St. Louis area to celebrate his long and accomplished life. It sounds like it will be a truly special celebration.

Ralph Shower has touched the lives of so many people over the past century, and his service to his country and community deserves our recognition and appreciation. I congratulate Ralph Shower for his service to his family, community, and this great country. Happy Birthday!●

TRIBUTE TO DR. WILLIAM E. "BRIT" KIRWAN

● Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, as you know, when Senators converse in the cloakroom between votes, we often claim bragging rights—who represents the State with the best crab cake, which State has the best hiking trails, and which baseball team will win the American League East division for example. Everyone likes to chime in and claim his or her State as the best in some regard. But if anyone mentions leaders in higher education, the conversation just stops. Every Senator knows what the senior Senator from Maryland and I are going to say—Dr. William E. "Brit" Kirwan. That ends the competition right there. Today I wish to honor this man who can rightfully be called one of the Nation's most respected leaders in higher education.

After 51 years in the field of education—spending 25 years as a faculty member and administrator at the University of Maryland, College Park, president of both the University of Maryland, College Park and The Ohio State University, and now as the chancellor of the University System of Maryland for the past 12 years—Dr. Kirwan will be retiring on June 30, 2015.

Under Dr. Kirwan's extraordinary leadership, the University System of Maryland has thrived. Our State's universities are among the best in the Nation, with cutting-edge research programs which support the work of private businesses and Federal agencies located nearby, internationally renowned academic programs, and diverse student bodies. Dr. Kirwan also paved the way for innovative solutions to cut the university system's costs while improving quality, expanding educational access for minorities, and initiating other successful strategies, such as the University System of Maryland's "Closing the Achievement Gap" program.

Outside of Maryland, Dr. Kirwan's expertise has been sought by Presidents of both parties and the U.S. Congress to offer his input on national higher education efforts. Even after he

announced his retirement, Dr. Kirwan cochaired the Task Force on Federal Regulation of Higher Education, and currently serves as the cochair of the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics; chair of the College Board's Commission on Access, Admissions, and Success in Education; a member of the Business Higher Education Forum and as chair of the National Research Council Board of Higher Education and the Workforce.

His work is not without recognition by the citizens of our State. Among his many accolades but not an exhaustive list after his numerous years of service, Dr. Kirwan is the recipient of the TIAA-CREF Theodore M. Hesburgh Award for Leadership, the Carnegie Corporation Leadership Award, the 16th recipient of the Maryland House of Delegates Speaker's Medallion in recognition of his contributions to the State of Maryland, the Maryland Senate First Citizen Award in recognition of his ongoing commitment and service to our State, the Lifetime Achievement Award in Education from the Tech Council of Maryland, the Champion of Children Award from the Maryland State Department of Education, the Regional Visionary Award of the Greater Baltimore Committee, and the Public Service Award from the Maryland Chamber of Commerce.

As impressive as Dr. Kirwan's resume may be, it does not define who he is as an individual. Dr. Kirwan is a man of integrity and loyalty who maintains a passion for ensuring access to a quality education for all. He has been visionary in all things academic and believer in the well-being of young men and women. I would also like to thank Dr. Kirwan's family for the support they have given to him throughout his academic career and for allowing him to so greatly share his talents with the people of Maryland.

Dr. Kirwan's efforts have left the University System of Maryland and the State of Maryland both stronger academically and better prepared to educate students for the challenges of tomorrow. He has made social justice a genuine priority, which has elevated the university system even further. Through his vision and actions to establish the then Center for Academic Innovation at the University of Maryland, College Park, and the legacy of the newly commissioned William E. Kirwan Center for Academic Innovation will advance the priorities of Dr. Kirwan to address barriers to a college education for decades to come.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. Kirwan on his well-deserved retirement and thanking Dr. Kirwan for his service and commitment to higher education.●

NATIONAL ROOFING WEEK

● Mr. KIRK. Mr. President, today I would like to recognize the National Roofing Contractors Association, NRCA, headquartered in Rosemont, IL,

and support its efforts to designate the week of July 5–11, 2015 as National Roofing Week.

As the first line of defense against natural elements, such as rain, snow or wind, the roof is one of the most critical features of any home or business. Yet, despite its importance, it is often taken for granted until it falls into disrepair. National Roofing Week is a valuable reminder of the significance that quality roofing has on our communities and honors the thousands of contractors in the roofing industry across the United States.

NRCA's 3,800 members, located across all 50 States, play a significant role in the installation and maintenance of roofing systems. With a vast network of roofing contractors and industry-related members, NRCA handles a majority of new construction and replacement roof systems on commercial and residential structures in America. However, the organization's activities extend beyond its construction duties.

National Roofing Week provides an opportunity to recognize the thousands of NRCA members and their commitment to supporting their local communities. As part of its outreach efforts last year, NRCA members worked together to raise funds and repair the roof for a local nonprofit organization that provides health services and housing options for mistreated and abused children in Chicago. I commend the NRCA and the vital role the organization and its members play in every community and I ask my colleagues to join me in acknowledging their contributions during National Roofing Week.●

REMEMBERING TROOPER JAMES A. MOEN AND RECOGNIZING MEGAN PETERS

● Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, on Thursday, the Alaska State Troopers will pause to recognize the 14th anniversary of the loss of Trooper James A. Moen. Trooper Moen, assigned to fish and wildlife protection duties, was killed in an aircraft accident while on law enforcement patrol near Lake Iliamna, AK. Trooper Moen was piloting the single-engine Piper Cub float plane when it crashed for unknown reasons. His remains were recovered by troopers who hiked in to the scene. Trooper Moen had served with the Alaska State Troopers—fish and wildlife protection for over 18 years and had over 4,000 hours of flight time as both a military and civilian pilot. He was survived by his wife and four children.

One of Trooper Moen's children is Megan Peters, a spokesperson for the Alaska State Troopers. Megan's name is perhaps better known among Alaskans than her father's was. But one thing that Alaskans may not know is that Megan plays a leading role in organizing the Alaska police memorial ceremony each May. While all Alaska's law enforcement officers who gave

their lives in the line of duty are recognized in this ceremony, the emphasis is on honoring those who passed in the preceding year.

There is a certain irony to Megan's involvement in all this. During Police Week, Megan devotes her energy to comforting the families of other fallen officers. But who is there to recognize and comfort Megan, herself a survivor of a law enforcement tragedy? That irony was not lost on Mallory Peebles, a reporter from KTUU Television in Anchorage. During the 2013 ceremony, Mallory devoted a segment of Channel 2 News to telling Megan's story—then and now.

So this year, through this message in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, it is my intention to honor both father and daughter. The legacy of Trooper James A. Moen very much lives on in the work of his daughter Megan. I didn't know Trooper Moen, but I have to believe that he would be very proud of Megan's work.

My staff and I rely on Megan throughout the year for information on public safety issues in Alaska. She is the go-to person and gets us the answers we need on short deadline. We appreciate her knowledge and diligence, but rarely do we think to take a moment to say thank you.

I ask unanimous consent that Mallory Peebles report on the work of Megan Peters be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From Channel 2 News, May 20, 2013]

LOST IN THE LINE OF DUTY: A STATE TROOPER'S STORY 12 YEARS LATER

(By Mallory Peebles and Photojournalist Shawn Wilson)

ANCHORAGE, AK.—When a service member or civilian in uniform makes the ultimate sacrifice, they are officially considered lost in the line of duty. Channel Two is looking back at three Alaskans and their families who have paid the ultimate price. On May 10, The State of Alaska recognized Peace Officers Memorial Day. It's a somber yet iconic event to mark and mourn Alaska's law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty. This year the annual event was organized by State Trooper spokeswoman Megan Peters. For Peters it's more than just a work assignment, it's personal. "My dad was a fish cop, fish and wildlife. So he was a brown shirt," Peters said. Peters said growing up she always knew her father did important work with the Alaska Troopers—sometimes even dangerous work—but as a child she didn't focus on the dangers of the job. "He would go out on the boat all the time. He loved flying," Peters said. "People say yeah, it's something that you know could happen but I was a little kid, and my dad was a trooper the whole time, so why would something happen?" When Peters was just 18-years-old something did happen. Her father was flying on a routine sport fishing patrol near Iliamna when his plane crashed. It was May 25, 2001. Megan was studying abroad in Finland when her mother called with the news. "I was just walking down the street, and I'll never forget the first thing she said was 'I'm so sorry Megan,'" Peters said. "I don't remember anything after that phone call. I don't remember packing. I

didn't have to change my plane tickets because I was already leaving. I just came home, and it was a different life." It was a life without a father who had meant the world to her. "When he wasn't working he was always taking us out. We had a boat and we had our own plane in high school," Peters said. "My dad loved Alaska and that's why he came up here. He came up with the intent on wanting to be a State Trooper." James Arthur Moen was a productive Alaska State Trooper. For 18 years he served The State of Alaska. A member of the Special Emergency Response Team, SERT and dive unit, Moen assisted in numerous rescues and recovery missions. Today, he is still remembered for his contributions across the state. A trooper boat is named after Moen and still operates out of Petersburg. While serving Alaskans, Moen also served as a strong role model for his daughter. She decided to follow in her father's footsteps and is now working with the State Troopers. Peters joined the Troopers in 2007 where she is tasked with writing a press release each time a plane crashes in Alaska and troopers respond. Just like her father's hat that sits on her desk in the office, each press release serves as a constant and often painful reminder of the high cost of duty. "I might not understand what it is that the troopers are doing every single day and what they're facing but I grew up around it enough to know what their jobs do entail," said Peters, "and to know what it's like to be in that environment." Alaska Peace Officers Memorial Day serves as a stark reminder of the life and death situations law enforcement officers face every day while on duty. The harsh realities that come along with the responsibilities of duty in Alaska can mean it's possible they may not come home. Moen's name was added to this memorial more than a decade ago and joins many like it. This year 40-year-old State Trooper Tage Toll of Talkeetna had his name added. He died only two months ago when Helo-One crashed while executing the rescue of a stranded snowmachiner. Village Public Safety Officer Thomas Madole also had his name added to the memorial this year. He was shot and killed while responding to a 911 call in Manokotak. All the names added serve as a reminder of the lives sacrificed for a job, country and state they loved. "My dad was a trooper and a pilot and he loved both, and you could see it every day when he came home," Peters said. "He was happy, he loved his life."

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Very touching story. This year, once again, we reflect on the service of Trooper James A. Moen to our State. At the same time we recognize the continuing contributions of his daughter, Megan, without whom we would not know as much about the triumphs, the risks and the sacrifices made by the troopers who keep Alaskans safe.●

RECOGNIZING CONVERSATIONS

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, small businesses have the unique ability to recognize emerging service gaps in their local economies. Often, these small businesses fill these unique service gaps in targeted, innovative ways. One such entity is this week's Small Business of the Week, Conversations of New Orleans, LA.

In 2010, Megan Hargroder noticed a lack in social media and online engagement consulting for startups, small businesses, and nonprofits in the greater New Orleans area. Eager to fill the