

the families and individuals impacted by the tragedy and I hope we never see anything like it again.

Last week I joined my colleague, Senator WICKER in introducing the Railroad Reform, Enhancement, and Efficiency Act, comprehensive passenger rail legislation that boosts our infrastructure and implements needed reforms. Most importantly, it improves safety on our Nation's railways. This 4-year authorization is a step forward in providing the stability Amtrak needs to be successful and serve the consumers who rely on it.

Across every mode of transportation, America needs critical investment. Nowhere is the investment crisis more pronounced than in New Jersey. The century-old tunnels that run under the Hudson River between New Jersey and New York are reaching a breaking point. We must act with urgency to find State and local partners to replace this critical infrastructure. New Jersey is also home to the Portal Bridge, which is in need of replacement in order to prevent delays and closures that slow our economy. It has been estimated that the loss of the Northeast Corridor could cost the country \$100 million per day; a devastating impact that we cannot afford. The costs for these projects are significant, which is why we must find new ways to help advance them.

Our legislation is a game changer for large-scale rail projects. The bill helps unlock and leverage innovative financing opportunities by improving the Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing Program, or RRIF. Our legislation will establish new creditworthiness criteria focused on the merits of the project, increase repayment flexibility, help leverage private financing opportunities, and speed up the process of applying for and receiving a loan—all of which can help advance projects like the Gateway Project along the Northeast Corridor. As China and other countries invest tens of billions for rail infrastructure, we must do more than maintain the status quo. Our bill's financing provisions enable us to take every possible advantage to improve our rail capacity and infrastructure.

Our legislation also includes strong safety provisions to protect passengers and workers. Positive train control, or PTC, was cited as a technology that could have prevented the tragic derailment last month and our legislation will advance deployment of PTC by authorizing grants and prioritizing loan applications to support implementation. Additionally, the legislation will improve safety by requiring action on priorities like grade crossings and enforcing speed limits, as well as worker protections, among various other provisions.

It is important to note that a strong authorization of funding for passenger rail is only the start. Investing in the future of America's rail network will also require dedicated and multi-year

streams of revenue to support the funding authorized in this bill. I am committed to working with my colleagues on the Finance Committee to make that a reality.

The Railroad Reform, Enhancement, and Efficiency Act is important for our global competitiveness and a forward step in promoting investment in our infrastructure. I thank the committee leadership and Senator WICKER for their support and work on this important legislation that will improve the lives of New Jerseyans and individuals across the country I urge my colleagues to support it.

3RD ANNIVERSARY OF DACA PROGRAM

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I would like to commemorate the third-year anniversary of the creation of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, DACA, program. On June 15, 2015, we celebrated this successful, although not comprehensive, policy that has provided deportation relief to more than 660,000 child immigrants nationally, including 14,900 in Colorado.

This life-changing program has allowed young people who were brought to the United States as children—DREAMers—to fully engage in their communities by continuing their education and having the opportunity to work. They have been able to open bank accounts, obtain credit cards, and receive driver's licenses. Deferred action is giving these young people relief and some degree of certainty to pursue opportunities that would not have been available to them otherwise.

DACA has given DREAMers hope for their future. They include DREAMers like Alex Alvarado-Renteria who has lived in Carbondale, CO for the last 18 years and has known no other home outside of the United States. Alex's parents migrated from Mexico and worked as farmworkers in order to give their children an opportunity for a better life. Alex was granted DACA and has since graduated from the Metropolitan State University of Denver with a bachelor of arts in history and Chicana/o studies. He now plans to become the first in his family to earn an advanced degree by attending law school and opening up his own immigration law practice one day.

We also have DREAMers like Lourdes Bustos from Denver, CO who has lived in the United States for the last 26 years and who was able to stay with her children upon receiving DACA. It was years before Lourdes realized she was not documented and would not be able to work legally or get a driver's license. Granting her deferred action meant that she would not be separated from her family. Lourdes has graduated from high school and has opened her own painting business.

DACA has played a transformative role in increasing social and economic integration for youth who have been raised and educated in our country. It

has given DREAMers an opportunity to invest in their futures. It has empowered DREAMers with a sense of community and belonging.

This program has helped many of our young people, but only offers a temporary solution to the unfair consequences of our broken immigration system. This anniversary should also serve as a stark reminder that every day that Congress fails to enact immigration reform, it jeopardizes our economy, our safety, and our communities. It is time to put politics aside and work to enact comprehensive immigration reform.

TRIBUTE TO ADMIRAL SAMUEL LOCKLEAR

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, after a lifetime of service to our Nation, ADM Samuel J. Locklear III recently stepped down as Commander of United States Pacific Command and retired from the U.S. Navy. On this occasion, I wish to honor Admiral Locklear's 43 years of distinguished uniformed service to our Nation.

Admiral Locklear graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1977. He has led at every level from command-at-sea to theater command. Prior to assuming command of the United States Pacific Command, he commanded U.S. Naval Forces Europe and concurrently, U.S. Naval Forces Africa and NATO's Commander of the Allied Joint Force Command, where his leadership was instrumental in galvanizing an effective coalition of 18 NATO nations to support the complex Libya air campaign.

At Pacific Command, Admiral Locklear provided the strategic vision required to lead in a region vital to America's future peace and prosperity. He has presided over the rebalance to the Asia-Pacific with an even-keeled leadership approach that has focused our Nation in a time of difficult security challenges and austere budgets. Pacific Command is the oldest and largest of our geographic commands encompassing roughly half of the Earth's surface, extending from pole to pole and across the vastness of two great oceans. Admiral Locklear skillfully navigated the complexities and competing interests of this expansive theater. He has worked to strengthen alliances, reinvigorate old ones, cultivate new partnerships, and maintain a robust forward presence to assure and defend our allies and partners.

Admiral Locklear's legacy of service will be as a driving force behind a renewed commitment to protecting America's enduring interests in the Asia-Pacific region. When the Nation needed its very best in military experience, leadership, and advice to confront the challenges and threats we face globally, Admiral Locklear answered the call.

I join many past and present members of the Senate Armed Services Committee in my gratitude to ADM Samuel Locklear for his outstanding

leadership and his unwavering commitment to the peace and stability of the Asia-Pacific region. His impact will continue into the coming decades and our Navy and our Nation will feel his absence. I wish him and his wife Pam "fair winds and following seas."

REMEMBERING LIEUTENANT ROBERT "STAN" LOWE

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, today I wish to honor and remember one of Wyoming's many World War II heroes, LT Robert "Stan" Lowe. On Friday, June 19, 2015, Wyoming and our Nation lost one its most revered veterans advocates. Stan lived to be 92 years old.

In 1943, Stan chose to serve his Nation rather than complete his college studies and join the U.S. Merchant Marines. The Merchant Marines' mission was one of the most dangerous and important missions during World War II. The mission was critical to ensuring our servicemen had the resources they needed to ultimately defeat tyranny. While Lieutenant Lowe was keeping the sea lanes open and secure and he also had more than one job. Stan was a staff officer handling payroll and personnel matters, ran the ship store, and carried out chaplain duties. He even served as a tour coordinator for port calls to keep the young mariners out of trouble. In addition to manning their battle stations, this was the life of a Merchant Marine.

When Lieutenant Lowe returned to the United States in 1946, he like many of his fellow veterans returned to school. He went on to get a law degree. Like your traditional Merchant Marine, Stan never wore just one hat. He was first a mariner and then an attorney. He served in the Wyoming State House of Representatives and as the Carbon County Attorney. Throughout most of Stan's professional career he served as general counsel to True Oil.

Stan was the first commissioner appointed to Wyoming Veterans Commission. He served under two Governors and chaired the commission. He retired with the title of chairman emeritus. Stan never stopped serving our veterans or our community. Stan was a mentor and teacher to many of Wyoming's veterans. In every veteran he came across, he instilled the virtue that the oath servicemen and women take does not expire when you take off the uniform. He strongly believed he had responsibility to help his fellow veterans to honor and respect current servicemen and women and to serve his community.

Stan was always very involved in his community working with the Casper Rotary Club and the American Legion to name a few. He always worked behind the scenes for many causes especially for veterans. If it was the veterans' museum, efforts to protect the benefits of the widows of veterans, WWII Honor Flights or veteran license plates, Stan probably had his finger

prints all over it. Stan also fought hard to get the Merchant Marines recognized with veteran status. He and Merchant Marines around the Nation finally got this much deserved recognition in 1988.

For almost 30 years, on every Memorial Day, Stan would recite Flanders Field at the Oregon Trail Veterans Cemetery. It was always a humbling experience. In his later years, despite the pain, Stan would rise from his chair like a maestro stepping up to a podium. With a quiet tone that could reach the back of the chapel, Stan would begin by reciting the poem. His voice would draw you into a moment in time reminding you of the silence of peace. Children and adults alike would hang on his every word and Stan's voice, like a lullaby, reminded us of soldiers who were loved and paid the ultimate price for freedom. For that moment, you felt warm and secure in their remembrance. As gently he begun he would end and quietly sit. The only sound you could hear was the breathing of the crowd.

Stan was preceded in death by his wife Anne "Pat" Kirtland Selden Lowe, and is survived by his two children Robert J. Lowe and wife Lanette and Meganne L. Acres and husband Craig, sister-in-law Ruth Selden Sturgill, brother-in-law George L. Selden, grandchildren Parker and Dalton Lowe, Hannah and Ben Acres, niece Lauren and husband Bill Gasmick, nephew John Lefferdink and Lanette's father Jerry Kelly.

Stan epitomizes the service and sacrifice of our men and women in uniform and service to our communities. It also epitomizes the Rotary motto "Service Above Self." People like Stan Lowe do not come around often so we thank him for all he has done to make our Nation safe and Wyoming a better State.

Stan, my friend, as they say in the Merchant Marines, "fair winds and following seas."

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE NASWA 80TH ANNIVERSARY

• Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, I wish to honor a long standing New Hampshire institution, often called "the ultimate NH Resort Destination." The NASWA Resort at Weirs Beach in Laconia, NH, also known as, "The Naz," is named for the natural spring water that was found at the site of the original cabins.

This year, the NASWA will celebrate its 80th year of continuous operation in the Granite State. As the 6th annual NASWA Day approaches, it is a time to celebrate the thousands of people from New Hampshire and around the country who have visited this relaxing destination overlooking Paus Bay on Lake Winnepesaukee.

Drawing guests from the Lakes Region to the White Mountains, the

NASWA is a place for people to enjoy the beauty of the Granite State, family fun, summertime entertainment and recreation. People of all ages can enjoy paddleboats, fine and casual dining, gather with friends, or take a swim in the lake. Founded by Greek immigrants in 1935, the NASWA is still a family-run business, owned and operated by Hope Makris, who continues to live on the property, her daughters Cynthia and Karen, and the rest of the family. To this day, you will find Hope in the kitchen, baking all of the desserts, including Greek pastries.

The Makris family has made tremendous contributions to the community. Each year, the NASWA hosts the Peter Makris Memorial Run in honor of Hope's late husband, which benefits the Laconia Fire Department's Life Saving Fund and Water Rescue Team. The Makris family is also committed to serving veterans. Hope's daughter Cynthia serves as the Lakes Region chairwoman of the Easter Seals Veterans Count program; and for the past 14 years, the NASWA has hosted the Easter Seals Land and Lake Poker Run. The run further benefits the Easter Seals of New Hampshire and the Veterans Count program.

As a native Granite Stater and on behalf of the State of New Hampshire, I congratulate the NASWA and the Makris family. After 80 years, the NASWA continues to be a beloved New Hampshire destination, and I wish the Makris family the very best for many more decades to come.●

REMEMBERING RALPH J. ROBERTS

• Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I wish today to remember Ralph J. Roberts, a proud Pennsylvanian and a national business leader. Ralph passed away on June 18, 2015, at the age of 95, after a long life of personal and professional success.

To many across our Nation, Ralph was best known as the founder of Comcast, where he served for 46 years as the chief executive officer. Navigating complex technological developments in a competitive entertainment market, Ralph's entrepreneurial spirit helped lead Comcast from a small, local startup in 1963 to the country's largest cable television company today. His professional achievements complemented his extensive philanthropic work; Ralph held positions on several charitable boards in Philadelphia, where he offered his business acumen to support local economic and community development projects.

One of the defining aspects of Ralph's career was undoubtedly his enduring partnership with his son Brian, as they built a strong business team while maintaining their close father-son relationship. As the New York Times wrote on June 19, 2015:

Mr. Roberts, typically dapper in his signature bow tie and Brooks Brothers suits, became his son's mentor and sounding board, and the two were admired as a potent business partnership while never displaying the