

career, his meritorious conduct, his extraordinary leadership, and his distinguished and unwavering service to this great Nation. I extend my sincerest gratitude to Vice Admiral Weschler, a native son of Erie, PA, whom we are proud to call one of our own, and wish him and his family all the best in their future endeavors.●

HURRICANE KATRINA

● Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, 10 years ago, Hurricane Katrina came ashore on the Mississippi gulf coast with devastating force, inflicting billions of dollars in property and personal damages. It was amazing that more were not killed.

The tragic loss of life and horrible property destruction shocked us all. Our recovery has required enormous dedication and determination, and thousands of Mississippians rose to that challenge.

In the days, months, and years after the storm, Mississippians pitched in to help neighbors and strangers alike. The dedication and sacrifice of the Coast Guard, the National Guard and other first responders saved lives and helped enable the large-scale rebuilding that would follow. The resilience and hard work of the people, as well as the outpouring of church and volunteer workers from across the State and Nation, made recovery possible.

Over the past decade, State, local, and Federal elected officials have also aggressively promoted and assisted in the gulf coast's recovery. But our recovery is not yet complete.

While the serious problems exposed by the Katrina recovery effort have been used to improve our national response to emergencies and natural disasters, work remains to be done to ensure a full recovery in Mississippi and along the gulf coast. Unsustainable insurance practices and overbearing Federal regulations continue to hamper recovery and economic development efforts.

Those challenges, however, cannot diminish the pride I have in the people of Mississippi for exemplifying the strength, vision, and resilience necessary to ensure the cultural and economic vitality of our State.

This August, we commemorate the decade since Hurricane Katrina claimed lives and left indelible marks on our State. Mr. President, 10 years after Katrina, I remain confident that we will continue to work together to rebuild Mississippi and to advocate for commonsense policies and intelligent investments that will ensure the continued vitality of the Gulf Coast.●

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM P. GARDNER

● Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, as I have served Montana's veterans and military members in Congress, I continue to be amazed and humbled by the incredible stories of Montanans fighting for our country in all corners of the

world. Montana is home to more veterans per capita than almost any other State in the Nation, and tribal members enroll in the military at a higher rate than any other minority. I wish to recognize one of America's heroes who exemplifies the best of Montana, who is also an enrolled Crow tribal member: William P. "Butch" Gardner.

Mr. Gardner served our country during the Vietnam war. This brave gentleman selflessly served for a number of years during the conflict before he was honorably discharged. Mr. Gardner's commitment to service did not stop when he took off the uniform; in his community, he and a handful of other veterans serve as the color guard on the Crow Reservation. He continues to serve in the honor guard despite losing his leg to an amputation 2 years ago. His peers describe Mr. Gardner as the backbone to the color guard.

Montanans are proud of our diverse heritage, and it is truly an honor to celebrate an individual who so humbly embody the spirit of patriotism.●

RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING MONTANA TEENS

● Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the work of the impressive Montana teens who attended the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, FCCLA, STAR Event in Washington, DC. This group of young men and women made our State proud at their national conference, and brought home a combined 31 gold medals, 26 silver medals, and 3 bronze medals.

Some of the standouts in the Montana FCCLA that I would like to recognize are Garrett Christiaens of Valier, MT, who was just made the new national vice president of programs, and Mariah Pierce, Katlyn Gillen, and Loren Minnick—three Park High School students who not only took first place at the FCCLA State competition, but also went on to win gold medals at the national level.

The Montana FCCLA has approximately 70 chapters across the State, and is part of the Family and Consumer Sciences curriculum offered in over 100 of Montana's high schools. Members of these chapters actively work to make a difference in their families, careers, and communities. I had the opportunity to meet a group of these students last month during their national conference, and I was impressed by their work ethic and dedication to those around them. Their success at the National Leadership Conference affirms that they are indeed making a difference and demonstrates how Montana students can effectively rise to meet both local and national challenges.●

RECOGNIZING THE 95TH ANNIVERSARY OF WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY

● Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, I rise today to speak in recognition of

the 95th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, granting voting rights for women. I ask my colleagues to join me in marking August 26, known as Women's Equality Day, a significant landmark in American history as we acknowledge, honor, and celebrate the vast and vital contributions that women have made to our country.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott, and other dedicated supporters for women's equality convened the First Women's Rights Convention on July 1848 in Seneca Falls, NY. They advocated for the right to own property, protection from domestic violence, and other social reforms that promoted equality, including voting, and never wavered in that pursuit. Stanton wrote a Declaration of Sentiments that called for "all men and women" to be recognized as created equal under the law, thus beginning the 72-year struggle for suffrage that ended in 1920.

Mr. President, 2015 is the bicentennial year for Elizabeth Cady Stanton, who was born November 12, 1815, in Johnstown, NY. Celebrations of her extraordinary life are taking place throughout the year. Stanton met Susan B. Anthony in 1851, and they began a 50-year partnership advocating for suffrage and women's equality; however, both women did not live to see the passage of the 19th Amendment. As the mother of seven children, Mrs. Stanton can be proud of the legacy she left to her descendants, one of whom is today spearheading a committee tasked with placing a new statue of these two amazing leaders in New York. They gave a voice to millions of women and changed history forever following Anthony's vow that "failure is impossible."

A unique crossroad of history resides at 77th and Central Park West in New York City with statues of two U.S. Presidents, Theodore Roosevelt astride a horse outside the American Museum of Natural History and Abraham Lincoln who stands on the steps of the New-York Historical Society. Near Lincoln is a statue of abolitionist Frederick Douglass symbolically carrying books at a building that safeguards history. I am pleased to announce that permission was granted in May 2015 for a suffragist statue to be installed at the West 77th Street entrance to Central Park. It will be the very first statue of a woman in this park's 160-year history.

New York City park commissioner Mitchell J. Silver awarded this site for a statue of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony, pioneering leaders of the women's suffrage movement. Included in the sculpture design are the names of many remarkable women instrumental in the fight toward winning the vote. Its installation in September 2017 will coincide with New York State's centennial of women's voting rights. The New-York Historical Society announced that in the transformation of its fourth floor there

would be a new Center for the Study of Women's History that will present special exhibitions, as well as public and scholarly programs.

Over 50 million visitors each year are welcomed to New York City, with over half reporting they spend time in Central Park. Placing the Stanton and Anthony statue at this highly visible locale that resonates social justice will undoubtedly draw local residents and visitors of all nations to history lessons that include the story of the equal rights and suffrage movements in America.

I ask that we give tribute on August 26, 2015, the 95th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment, to the early suffragists who were steadfast in their pursuit of equality for all citizens, which is a sacred trust that we must continue to support today.●

CONGRATULATING RAY HAGAR

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today, I wish to congratulate Ray Hagar on his retirement after decades of bringing Northern Nevada extraordinary news coverage. It gives me great pleasure to recognize Ray's hard work and unwavering dedication to the local community and for showcasing journalistic integrity and excellence to the Silver State.

Ray is truly a role model to many in the local community, embodying the battle-born spirit of genuine loyalty, determination, and resilience. He is a fifth-generation Nevadan, bringing unique insight to an array of topics, especially in his political coverage. Ray has spent time at several news outlets, including the Reno Evening Gazette and the Nevada State Journal, and most recently served as a member of the political team with the Reno Gazette Journal and as a regular host on Nevada's most-watched political talk show, Nevada Newsmakers. His 15 years of political coverage with the Reno Gazette Journal brought Nevadans only the most accurate journalism. He is also the co-author of Johnson-Jeffries: Dateline Reno, a novel about the 1910 fight between Jack Johnson and Jim Jeffries and its effects on Nevada. His lengthy and extensive career touched the lives of many across the State, keeping residents up-to-date and knowledgeable on key topics.

Ray always made sure to place himself in the middle of the action to gain a full understanding of what he was reporting on. Even as a young boy growing up, he was eager to be fully engrossed in his surroundings. One story that Ray references as a good learning experience was during his football career with Bishop Manogue High School. It was 1969 and the Bishop Manogue High School Miners, coached by Christ Ault, were playing against Carson High School, my alma mater. The Miners were behind but were inside the 5-yard line with enough time to clench a final victory. At the time, Ray was playing offensive guard and was punched in the

face by an opposing player. Ray retaliated, ultimately receiving a penalty that caused the Miners to lose the game and was kicked off the football team. Later that night, he turned up at Coach Ault's home, asking for a second chance and continued on in the season. Though I am sure this was devastating at the time, it shows Ray's sense of commitment and humility.

Throughout his career, Ray was a true journalist, gaining insight from all sides to convey a thorough picture to his audience. If anything important was going on, you could always count on Ray to have an accurate story ready to share. I will never forget some of the stories that Ray reported on, especially his interaction with former New York Yankee manager, Billy Martin. If that doesn't illustrate a sincere effort to get the real story, then I don't know what does. I had the pleasure of working with Ray using an open-door policy and appreciate the relationship we built throughout the years.

Ray left his footprint on Nevada journalism, a mark that will remain in the northern Nevada community for years to come. His legacy of thorough and fair coverage will never be forgotten. Surely, future political writers will have big shoes to fill after his incredible career.

Ray has demonstrated absolute dedication to excellent reporting, bringing Nevada politics outside of the walls of the legislature and Congress to audiences across the State. I am both humbled and honored by his hard work and am proud to call him a fellow Nevadan. Today, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in congratulating an upstanding Nevadan and friend, Ray Hagar, on his retirement. I give my deepest appreciation for all that he has done and offer him my best wishes for many successful and fulfilling years to come.●

RECOGNIZING DAVIDSON ACADEMY'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today, I wish to recognize the 10th anniversary of Davidson Academy, an institution with a noble mission to support northern Nevada's profoundly gifted students. I am proud to honor this institution that has worked so hard to prepare Nevada's youth for successful and positive futures.

Davidson Academy was established in 2005 through State legislation, designating the institution as a university school for gifted students. The academy officially opened in fall of 2006 and is a free public school located on the University of Nevada, Reno, UNR, campus. Students at both the middle school and high school levels attend the academy. Individual students develop a Personalized Learning Plan, which guides them through their academic and personal goals and prepares them for their futures. Students are also able to participate in UNR courses as part of a dual enrollment agreement. The academy works to challenge

its students and gives them a great opportunity to develop their knowledge and skills in an advanced environment.

As a father of four children who attended Nevada's public schools, and as the husband of a life-long teacher, I understand the important role that different institutions play in enriching the lives of Nevada's students. Ensuring that America's youth are prepared to compete in the 21st century is critical for the future of our country. Profoundly gifted students are often underserved and unfortunately, do not receive the curriculum they need to excel. The State of Nevada is fortunate to have institutions like Davidson Academy available to support students with unique needs.

I ask my colleagues and all Nevadans to join me in recognizing Davidson Academy on its 10th anniversary. This institution is truly dedicated to enriching the lives of Nevada's students, and I am honored to congratulate them on hitting an important milestone. I wish Davidson Academy well in all of its future endeavors and in creating greater opportunity for Nevada's youth.●

TRIBUTE TO MIKE MCCARTHY

● Mr. KING. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the hard work and dedication of Michael McCarthy, the principal of King Middle School in Portland, ME, who has served for 27 years and is moving on to a much deserved retirement. Mike has left a remarkable legacy and his hard work and dedication will continue to help Maine students for years to come.

About one-fifth of King Middle School's students speak a native language other than English, 28 different languages in all, and students at the school come from 17 countries. More than half of the student body qualifies for free or subsidized lunch. Such factors can often contribute to poor academic performance, and for many years, parents did not view King Middle as a viable institution for their children. That view changed when Mike McCarthy took over 27 years ago.

Mike possesses the qualities required of a strong leader. He is intelligent, but understands he may not always have the right answers, making him a good listener. He is dedicated to his students and faculty, and makes decisions that benefit the entire community. As a former teacher, Mike understands the classroom atmosphere and devotes his time to creating a positive learning environment. Perhaps most importantly, Mike is willing to take risks.

Under Mike's leadership, King Middle School was one of the first schools in Maine to embrace 1:1 digital learning. This new approach helped to put technology in the hands of his students and teachers, and helped to open doors and unlock new potential in and out of the classroom. Mike also had the courage to implement an innovative approach called the Expeditionary Learning model, through which groups of teachers and students work together on