

They carry on another tradition that echoes throughout our history: After their military service was done, they returned home, quietly and modestly, and continued to serve their communities.

The American people believe that supporting our troops doesn't stop once they leave the military. Just as no member of our Armed Forces would leave a comrade behind on the battlefield, we must not leave our veterans and their families behind on the battlefields of injury and disease. We must be strong advocates for veterans' health care and be concerned about the Vietnam veterans who were exposed to agent orange. We must remain committed to ensuring that those veterans and their families receive the care and support they have earned.

The men and women who served our Nation a half century ago upheld the highest ideals of America and of the American Armed Forces. Our Vietnam veterans were then, and remain today, heroes who deserve our respect and our gratitude.

Mr. KING. Mr. President, this month marks the 50th anniversary of the introduction of U.S. ground troops in the Vietnam war, and I would like to recognize our Vietnam era veterans who dedicated their strength and service to defend freedom and democracy across the globe. In honor of this anniversary, the Secretary of Defense coordinated various events to thank and honor all veterans of the Vietnam war. A well-deserved welcome home ceremony will be held in Presque Isle, ME, on September 26, 2015, to recognize and commemorate the lives of those who fought so bravely.

For nearly 20 years, the Vietnam war occupied the American collective conscience. American involvement initially focused on assisting French forces to counter the Vietminh communist revolution. However, in 1964 the Gulf of Tonkin incident dramatically shifted American perspective, and on August 7, President Johnson drafted and Congress unanimously approved a resolution authorizing direct military intervention in Vietnam.

Throughout the war, the United States deployed over 2.7 million servicemembers to Vietnam, and over 8 million Americans served in uniform during the Vietnam era. More than 58,200 Americans lost their lives and more than 150,000 were seriously wounded during the conflict. I would like to honor those brave Americans who sacrificed so much for their country. Their contributions to our Nation will never be forgotten.

Maine played a crucial role in the war effort. With one of the highest percentages of veterans per capita in the nation, the Vietnam war's legacy still resonates in Maine today. Close to 48,000 people from Maine served in Vietnam, and nearly 350 Maine servicemembers were killed or went missing in action during the war. Our veterans' unwavering patriotism, courage, and

resilience fully demonstrate the fortitude of American character and our Nation's commitment to democracy worldwide.

On this 50th anniversary of the Vietnam war, I would like to join the Secretary of Defense in recognizing the brave Americans who served overseas, as well as those on the homefront whose unrelenting support was invaluable to those overseas. Our veterans have made countless personal sacrifices in protection of our freedoms, and I am proud to honor and thank them for their service to our great Nation.

BEING A TOLERANT AND ACCEPTING COUNTRY

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, in recent weeks two of the leading contenders to be President of the United States called into question the devotion of American Muslims to this great country, and one even outrageously suggested that being Muslim precludes you from being President. I denounce this. It is in violation of Article VI of the Constitution and in violation of our Country's basic principles.

Everyone that serves in public office from President to the Senate must uphold the Constitution. Article VI of the Constitution explicitly states:

All debts contracted and engagements entered into, before the adoption of this Constitution, shall be as valid against the United States under this Constitution, as under the Confederation.

This Constitution, and the laws of the United States which shall be made in pursuance thereof; and all treaties made, or which shall be made, under the authority of the United States, shall be the supreme law of the land; and the judges in every state shall be bound thereby, anything in the Constitution or laws of any State to the contrary notwithstanding.

The Senators and Representatives before mentioned, and the members of the several state legislatures, and all executive and judicial officers, both of the United States and of the several states, shall be bound by oath or affirmation, to support this Constitution; but no religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under the United States.

There are 3 million American Muslims in our country. They teach in our schools, they work in our hospitals, and they attend our universities. Their children play on the same playgrounds and go to the same schools. They are able to do this because one of our founding principles on which our country was established was freedom of religion. It is on that basis that the United States should strive to be a tolerant and accepting country where differences are understood and diversity is celebrated. This is not the America some leading candidates for President imagine. They are perpetuating an undercurrent of bigotry by suggesting that American Muslims can't be President because of their religious beliefs. Not only is this contrary to our American values, it defies the U.S. Constitution.

TRIBUTE TO MARY BEHRENS

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, the Wyoming Nurses Association is honoring Casper nurse practitioner Mary Behrens with the 2015 Lifetime Achievement award. I am delighted to congratulate Mary on this tremendous honor.

Following in the footsteps of her mother, Mary pursued her passion for service by completing her RN at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1964. She practiced as a nurse in Madison while her husband Jerry finished his medical degree and residency. She remained in Madison as Jerry served our Nation as a physician treating wounded soldiers in Vietnam. In 1973, the couple moved to Casper, WY. Folks in Wyoming are fortunate that Mary chose to dedicate her career helping others in our State. She is truly an innovator, leader, and mentor for many nurses in Wyoming across the Nation and around the world.

The list of Mary's accomplishments and awards is long. She was active on the American Nurses Association board and is a board member of the University of Wyoming's Friends of the Fay W. Whitney School of Nursing. She is one of only three Wyoming nurses to be nationally recognized as a fellow of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners, FAANP. Her leadership in this area is incredible.

In 2005 she was a member of the American delegation to the World Health Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland, where she testified on the national nursing shortage. In addition, through her involvement with the Friendship Bridge program, Mary is credited with helping to establish an education pathway for nurses in Vietnam. Her efforts to develop a modern baccalaureate curriculum have had a tremendous impact on the global scope of nursing, particularly in Vietnam and neighboring countries.

Mary's civic service is not at all limited to her profession. In fact, she has an established history as a public servant for both Casper and Wyoming. Mary served on the Casper city council and as mayor of Casper. She was also a Natrona county commissioner and a representative in the Wyoming State Legislature. This experience, and her intense desire to make change, has made a profound impact on our State. Mary's extensive activity in shaping public policy truly stands alone, as few people possess such a wide breadth of policy knowledge, leadership skills, and passion for the nursing profession.

It is fitting that the Wyoming Nurses Association is honoring Mary Behrens with their most prestigious award. Countless patients and nursing students have benefitted from her leadership and care. The nursing profession is stronger because of Mary's enthusiastic advocacy.

Please join me in thanking Mary Behrens for her lifetime investment in nursing. Bobbi and I are truly fortunate to call her our friend.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO TERRY BOSTON

• Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I would like to take this moment for the Congress to note and honor the work of Terry Boston, president and CEO of PJM Interconnection, LLC.

It is most fitting that Terry Boston be recognized in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, for he has served countless Americans and played a key role in ensuring adequate infrastructure to drive America's economic development and our citizens' well-being throughout his professional life.

Since 2008, Terry Boston has served as president and chief executive officer of PJM located in Valley Forge, PA. In this role, Terry oversees the largest power grid in North America and the largest electricity market in the world. Terry also is president of the Association of Edison Illuminating Companies, Inc., and immediate past president of the GO 15, the association of the world's largest power grid operators. Terry was recently elected to the National Academy of Engineering, one of the highest professional honors accorded an engineer. He is a member of the Board for the Electric Power Research Institute.

Terry Boston is past chair of the North American Transmission Forum, dedicated to excellence in performance and sharing industry best practices. He also was one of the eight industry experts selected to direct the North American Reliability Corporation investigation of the August 2003 Northeast/Midwest blackout.

Prior to joining PJM, Terry Boston was the executive vice president of the Tennessee Valley Authority, the Nation's largest public power provider. In his 35 years at TVA, Terry directed divisions in transmission and power operations, pricing, contracts and electric system reliability.

PJM employs over 600 people in Pennsylvania and performs a critical function by "keeping the lights on" 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. PJM helps to ensure the health and well-being of our citizens not just in my State but for over 51 million persons in all or portions of the States of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, and the District of Columbia.

Mr. President, Terry Boston has been an excellent engineer and an inspirational leader in the electric industry. As he retires from PJM, I ask that you join me and the entire Senate in wishing Terry success in his future endeavors.●

REMEMBERING BILLY ROSS BROWN

• Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, the agriculture community and the State of Mississippi suffered a great loss with

the passing of Billy Ross Brown, Jr., on Saturday, September 12, 2015. He was a good friend, a neighbor, a highly respected member of his community, and a gentleman who dedicated much of his life to helping Mississippi farmers and improving the overall quality of life in rural America.

A native of Oxford, MS, Billy Ross faithfully served the Farm Credit System and U.S. agricultural interests for over 36 years. In 1990 Billy Ross was appointed by President George H. W. Bush to serve on the Farm Credit Administration Board, and in 1993 he was designated Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Board by President Clinton, where he served with distinction until October of 1994. Following his tenure in Washington, Billy Ross returned to Mississippi and was nominated to the First South Farm Credit Board of Directors, a position in which he served until his retirement in March 2005.

In addition to his contributions to the U.S. Farm Credit System, Billy Ross was active in various agriculture and conservation organizations. He served more than 20 years as area vice president for the Mississippi Association of Conservation Districts and more than 30 years as a commissioner of the Lafayette County Soil and Water Conservation District. Billy Ross also served on the Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation Commission as well as the U.S. Forest Service National Advisory Committee. He received many awards for his work in agriculture, conservation, forestry and wildlife habitat.

Billy Ross was a true gentleman who illustrated dedication to his community and country. I am grateful for his friendship and all he accomplished for American agriculture. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife Lynn and the entire Brown family during this sad time.●

TRIBUTE TO MARGO WALSH

• Mr. KING. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Margo Walsh, founder of MaineWorks, for her outstanding leadership and dedication to the State of Maine.

Under Margo's leadership, MaineWorks is strengthening communities and developing infrastructure across our State by providing temporary employment in the industrial construction sector to vulnerable laborers seeking to re-enter the workforce. Margo's vision has grown MaineWorks into an inclusive and empowering community for recent immigrants, low-income laborers, past non-violent offenders, military veterans, and other Mainers recovering from substance abuse.

Margo holds a BA in Psychology from Wheaton College and spent over 10 years in New York City as a recruiter for Goldman Sachs's Investment Banking Division and as an international human resources consultant

at Hewitt. She subsequently returned to her home State of Maine, determined to channel her passion for economic and social development towards the common good.

Margo's accomplishments at MaineWorks, however, extend beyond her initial decision to found the company in 2010. Under her continued leadership, MaineWorks has received recognition across the State and nationwide. In 2014 and 2015, SCORE recognized MaineWorks as the most successful innovative business in the State of Maine, and in 2014, MaineBiz Magazine named Margo as one of five women to watch. Additionally, MaineWorks is featured on the Federal Minimum Wage Campaign's video and was recently certified as a B-corporation, a testament to the company's commitment to transparency, social development, and environmental sustainability.

I would like to recognize and thank Margo for her ongoing commitment to the State of Maine. Our State owes Margo a great deal for her vision, leadership, compassion, and commitment to Maine's social and economic development. I look forward to Margo's continued service to MaineWorks and to the entire State of Maine.●

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 3134. An act to provide for a moratorium on Federal funding to Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Inc.

H.R. 3504. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit a health care practitioner from failing to exercise the proper degree of care in the case of a child who survives an abortion or attempted abortion.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. THUNE, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

H.R. 34. An act to authorize and strengthen the tsunami detection, forecast, warning, research, and mitigation program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-146).

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. McCain for the Committee on Armed Services.

Army nomination of Brig. Gen. Barbara R. Holcomb, to be Major General.

Air Force nomination of Maj. Gen. Jack Weinstein, to be Lieutenant General.

Air Force nomination of Col. Michael E. Flanagan, to be Brigadier General.

Air Force nomination of Col. David W. Silva II, to be Brigadier General.

Air Force nomination of Col. Philip R. Sheridan, to be Brigadier General.