

his work to make quality health care accessible for all Montana veterans.

Rick proudly served our country as a marine from January 1971 to January 1975. Unfortunately, his current illness requires constant care and attention. His wife, Sharon, long served as his primary round-the-clock caretaker and was confined to their home due to Rick's condition, which required an external ventilator to breathe at all times. Eventually his needs surpassed his ability to stay home, and he had to move into a long-term care facility.

While Rick was still at home, the Rosebud Health Care Center, RHCC, facility initiated a contract with the Department of Veterans Affairs, VA, to be able to provide care and services to veterans in its long-term care unit. The previous aging and resource center for Rosebud County was in Glendive, MT, about 1 hour and 40 minutes away from Rick's home in Forsyth, MT. Thankfully, RHCC received approval from the VA to provide care services close to home for Rick on November 1, 2015.

Rick's persistence and advocacy throughout his illness helped serve as the catalyst for RHCC establishing a contract with the VA that allows for veterans to receive long-term care in Forsyth. Our State has one of the largest populations of veterans per capita, and Rick's efforts have led the VA to create additional resources to help to provide health care services to Montana's extensive veteran population.

I am so proud to have advocates like Rick and Sharon fighting for veterans in Montana. Through his inspiring work to increase veterans' access to care, Rick Young has created an unmatched legacy that will leave a lasting mark on our State. Keep fighting, Rick. I am rooting for you.●

#### TRIBUTE TO MAYOR JOE RILEY

● Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I wish to speak today about Mayor Joe Riley, who is retiring after decades of service to the people of Charleston, SC.

Simply put, Joe Riley is one of the best mayors in America and a living legend in South Carolina political history. He is a hard-working, dedicated public servant who has spent most of his adult life serving the people of Charleston. I have never known anyone who loves their job more than he.

Years ago, Mayor Riley came into office with a vision for Charleston, but like all great leaders, he understood he couldn't do it alone. He went to work doing what he does best—bringing people together for the common good.

Now, as he retires from serving as mayor of the city he loves, the revitalization of this historic city is absolutely stunning. Thanks to his years of service, Charleston is now recognized as one of the best destinations to visit, not only in the United States but in the world.

Joe Riley will go down in history as a transformative mayor who turned his

vision for Charleston into reality. We are all better because of his service.●

#### TRIBUTE TO PAUL KOESTER

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate Paul Koester on his retirement after over 41 years of service to the U.S. Air Force. It gives me great pleasure to recognize his years of dedication to protecting our country and our State.

Mr. Koester grew up in Colorado Springs, CO, and later enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1974 with the intention of serving 4 years as a jet engine mechanic. During his time in basic training, he decided to change course and test to become a pararescue airman. After successfully passing his training, he spent the next 4 years at Elmendorf Air Force Base in Alaska as part of the 71st Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron. During his time serving in this squadron, he was credited with saving over 75 lives.

From 1980 to 1986, Mr. Koester served at McClellan Air Force Base in California and Little Rock Air Force Base in Arkansas. He soon after decided to join the Air National Guard. For the next 16 years, Mr. Koester served in the 102nd Rescue Squadron at Francis S. Gabreski Air National Guard Base in New York. On September 11, 2001, Mr. Koester and his squadron assisted as first responders during the collapse of the World Trade Center, aiding in saving the lives of many victims of the attack. His bravery and selflessness during this time of crisis will never be forgotten.

Three weeks later, Mr. Koester was deployed to the border of Kuwait and Iraq to serve as part of Operation Southern Watch. Following his return from this mission, Mr. Koester made the decision to resume Active Duty and was sent to Nellis Air Force Base in 2003 as part of the 58th Rescue Squadron. He concluded his service with this unit after 12 years of service. At his 60th birthday celebration, Mr. Koester was recognized as the oldest enlisted member actively serving in the Air Force and the longest serving pararescue airman with 13 deployments throughout his career. Our country and the Silver State are fortunate to have had someone of such dedication serving to protect our freedoms.

As a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, I have had no greater honor than the opportunity to engage with the men and women who served in our Nation's military. I recognize Congress has a responsibility not only to honor the brave individuals who serve our Nation, but also to ensure they are cared for when they return home. I remain committed to upholding this promise for veterans like Mr. Koester in Nevada and throughout the Nation.

Mr. Koester has demonstrated professionalism, commitment to excellence, and dedication to the highest standards of the U.S. Air Force. I am proud to

call him a fellow Nevadan, and I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Mr. Koester for his years of service and in congratulating him on his retirement. I wish him well in all of his future endeavors.●

#### CONGRATULATING BILL LANDON

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate Bill Landon on receiving the 2015 Air and Surface Transport Nurses Association Lynn Stevens Excellence in Safety Award. It gives me great pleasure to see him receive this prestigious award after years of hard work within northern Nevada.

In 1998, Mr. Landon began his air ambulance career in Greeley, CO. In 2003, he joined Care Flight in Reno and has since served as safety and training coordinator and flight paramedic. During his time at Care Flight, he has been a key contributor in the founding of a formalized safety committee, which meets twice a month and is comprised of medical flight staff pilots, air communication specialists, managers, and maintenance personnel. This important committee, chaired by Mr. Landon, works to review, develop, and implement safety initiatives for Care Flight and those that it serves. As chair, Mr. Landon spearheads important safety trainings, including an annual training for hospital emergency departments, pre-hospital agencies, and ski patrols servicing a 40,000 square mile area. His unwavering dedication to Care Flight in Reno has helped provide hundreds of hours of safety and medical training needed to save lives throughout northern Nevada. His work for our State is invaluable.

The Lynn Steven's Excellence in Safety Award goes to individuals who have gone above and beyond in the transportation community to promote safety awareness. This accolade is truly prestigious and attained by only the most influential members in this community. Since 1981, Care Flight has served northern Nevada's health organizations as an important resource for transportation with flight paramedics and pilots to respond to a variety of medical emergencies. Our State is fortunate to have someone like Mr. Landon serving Care Flight and its safety initiatives.

Throughout his tenure, Mr. Landon has demonstrated professionalism, commitment to excellence, and dedication to his trade. I am honored by his service and am proud to call him a fellow Nevadan. Today, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Landon on receiving this award, and I extend my deepest appreciation for all that he has done for many across northern Nevada. I offer him my best wishes in his role as safety and training coordinator in the future.●

#### TRIBUTE TO KRISTI BLACKLER

● Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, today I recognize Kristi Blackler, an

intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Kristi is a graduate of Stevens High School in Rapid City, SD. Currently, she is attending the University of South Dakota, where she is majoring in international studies and political science. She is a positive and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Kristi for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

#### TRIBUTE TO SOPHIE DOEDEN

● Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, today I recognize Sophie Doeden, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Sophie is a graduate of Beresford High School in Beresford, SD. Currently, she is attending Northern State University in Aberdeen, SD, where she is majoring in political science and minoring in history and economics. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience and who has been a true asset to the office.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Sophie for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

#### REMEMBERING DR. JOHN A. KNAUSS

● Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, recently the oceans lost one of their greatest champions. With the passing of Dr. John A. Knauss, Rhode Island has lost a beloved teacher, a visionary leader, and a brilliant scientist. We will all miss him a great deal.

John's accomplishments are too many to list, but I will note a few.

In 1966, Dr. Knauss was named to the Commission on Marine Science, Engineering, and Resources, where he and his colleagues recommended that Congress form a new and independent Federal agency to advance marine and atmospheric sciences and better understand our oceans, coastlines, and Great Lakes. That agency became the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which conducts some of the most important ocean science in the world and where John served as Administrator from 1989 to 1993.

Along with Rhode Island Senator Claiborne Pell and Dr. Athelstan Spilhaus, Dr. Knauss developed the National Sea Grant College Program. Their model was the country's land grant college system—century-old centers of learning that promote better use of America's vast resources of land. Pell and Knauss thought that surely our oceans and Great Lakes needed a similar network of institutions to conduct coastal and marine science and

promote conservation of such important natural assets.

Congress agreed. In 2016, Sea Grant will celebrate 50 years of good work on behalf of our oceans and Great Lakes. In recognition of his vision and leadership in forming Sea Grant, NOAA named one of its most prestigious fellowships in his honor—the NOAA Sea Grant John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship. Every year, around 50 of the Nation's top graduate and post-graduate students are selected for Knauss fellowships to spend a year working on marine and coastal policy issues for the Federal agencies and congressional offices in Washington, DC. Two Knauss fellows, Adena Leibman and Anna-Marie Laura, have worked in my Senate office, helping shape national oceans policy.

But perhaps his most significant achievement is the Graduate School of Oceanography, GSO, at the University of Rhode Island. John founded the GSO in 1962, served as its dean for over 25 years, and built it into an international leader in marine research. Today, sitting atop a bluff overlooking Rhode Island's beautiful Narragansett Bay, the GSO is home to 41 faculty and 170 graduate students engaged in cutting-edge oceanographic science and pursuing degrees across a range of specialties, including the country's first marine affairs and ocean engineering programs. It is a true Rhode Island treasure, one we should continue investing in, and a testament to Dean Knauss's leadership and commitment to our oceans.

Easily lost among his accomplishments in founding and leading ocean research institutions are his personal contributions to oceanography. In his dissertation for the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, John was the first to make comprehensive measurements of the Pacific Equatorial Undercurrent—a current that runs for thousands of miles beneath the surface of the Pacific Ocean. He later discovered another major current in the Indian Ocean.

John will be remembered for his collegiality and gift for collaboration among the administrators, faculty, students, and other researchers and ocean-minded professionals that he touched. Like the currents he studied, connecting vast oceans in one system, the institutions and programs he created and led bind together leading minds in ocean science, bettering our understanding of our ocean world and how important it is to us.

I offer my and Sandra's condolences to the Knauss family, to the marine science community, and to the countless people John Knauss taught, mentored, and inspired through the years.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

##### ENROLLED BILL AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS SIGNED

At 9:32 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by

Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill and joint resolutions:

S. 1170. An act to amend title 39, United States Code, to extend the authority of the United States Postal Service to issue a semipostal to raise funds for breast cancer research, and for other purposes.

S.J. Res. 23. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of a rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "Standards of Performance for Greenhouse Gas Emissions from New, Modified, and Reconstructed Stationary Sources: Electric Utility Generating Units".

S.J. Res. 24. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of a rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "Carbon Pollution Emission Guidelines for Existing Stationary Sources: Electric Generating Units".

The enrolled bill and joint resolutions were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

At 10:34 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the House of Representatives to the bill (S. 1177) to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to ensure that every child achieves.

The message also announced that the House insists upon its amendment to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 644) to reauthorize trade facilitation and trade enforcement functions and activities, and for other purposes, agreed to the conference asked by the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and on December 2, 2015, appoints Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. LEVIN, and Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, as managers of the conference on the part of the House.

At 1:55 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the House of Representatives to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 22) to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes.

#### MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 2359. A bill to restore Second Amendment rights in the District of Columbia.

#### ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, December 3, 2015, she