

isn't the only new improvement under General Tonini's watch.

During the last 8 years, the Kentucky National Guard has undertaken nearly \$200 million in facility improvements, consisting of both new buildings and additions and alterations to existing buildings, to add about 650,000 square feet of facilities to the Guard's resources. These new facilities include the Paducah and Richmond Armed Forces Reserve Center, the Owensboro Readiness Center, and the Army Aviation Support Facility in Frankfort, among others. General Tonini was also a champion of the important work taking place at the Bluegrass Station industrial park in central Kentucky.

General Tonini was a strong advocate of Kentucky's Agribusiness Development Teams, a program in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. These teams of Kentucky soldiers and airmen taught agricultural expertise to the people of Afghanistan, sharing their knowledge of irrigation techniques, food preservation, veterinary medicine, and more with hundreds of Afghans across the country.

General Tonini also was a strong supporter of the Guard's state partnership program, where the Kentucky National Guard partners with a foreign nation to strengthen the operations of both partners. The Kentucky National Guard has partnered with Ecuador for 19 years. Under the general's leadership, Kentucky added a second partnership program with Djibouti, making my State the first to partner with an east African nation. Djibouti is a key strategic partner for us in humanitarian and counterterrorist operations.

General Tonini's leadership has also been recognized outside the Commonwealth. In 2013, he was elected the president of the Adjutants General Association of the United States. During his tenure as president, America's National Guard boasted more than 450,000 personnel across the Nation.

Under General Tonini, Kentucky hosted the two largest events in the Nation for survivor outreach to support the family members of fallen servicemembers, one in Louisville and the other in northern Kentucky. We were able to honor more than 850 survivors from multiple States.

Finally, the Kentucky National Guard Memorial saw completion after 10 years thanks to General Tonini's persistence and his prodigious fundraising efforts. Located at Boone National Guard Center in Frankfort, the memorial honors 234 Kentucky guardsmen who have given their lives in the line of duty since 1912.

General Tonini has all these accomplishments and many more to be proud of as he steps down from the adjutant general post he so ably filled for 8 years. He has truly earned a place not just in Kentucky history, but in Kentuckians' hearts for his honorable service.

I would be remiss if I did not also laud the general's wife, Carol, who has

been a consistent presence with him at the full range of National Guard events, both in Kentucky and throughout the country. She has been a tremendous asset to him thanks to her grace, her support for those in uniform and their families, and her rock-solid support for her husband.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating General Edward W. Tonini upon his retirement and thanking him for his service—not just over the last 8 years, but over the last four decades. Kentucky is thankful for the many sacrifices he has made over the years to protect our communities and our Nation. I certainly want to wish General Tonini all the best in whatever awaits him in his next endeavors, and I am sure he will tackle all future challenges with the same vigor and fortitude he applied to his military service. Thank you, General Tonini, on behalf of a grateful Commonwealth.

RECOGNIZING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CULINARY WORKERS UNION LOCAL 226

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 80th anniversary of the Culinary Workers Union Local 226.

Since it was founded in 1935, the Culinary Workers Union Local 226 has successfully advocated on behalf of thousands of hospitality workers throughout Nevada. These workers include the housekeepers, kitchen staff, cooks, and food and beverage servers who play an indispensable role in our local and national economy. Along with local partners, the culinary union has effectively represented workers by advocating for competitive wages, affordable health insurance coverage, and enhanced working conditions. The culinary union is vital in the effort to provide real opportunities for working-class individuals and families.

Over the past eight decades, workplace environments across the United States have been transformed to meet our country's changing needs. Throughout these changes, the culinary union has always been on the frontlines to ensure that workers continue to receive fair treatment and the benefits they have earned. In particular, the culinary union successfully mobilized casino workers on many occasions to ensure that they received adequate health care coverage, improved contract terms, and pension benefits.

The organization has also had a positive impact on its members through the establishment of local services, such as the culinary health fund and the culinary pharmacy. The culinary health fund is a health plan that provides benefits to more than 130,000 participants, ensuring that union members and their families have access to essential health care services that keep them healthy. Additionally, in 2001, the culinary union launched a citizen project, which provides assistance for

individuals and families navigating the citizenship process.

I applaud the Culinary Workers Union Local 226 for their dedicated work and commitment to improving the lives of Nevadans. Their work is truly appreciated and admired, and I wish the organization continued success for years to come.

TRIBUTE TO LOURDES TIBAN

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I want other Senators to be aware of information I received about Ecuadorian National Assembly member Lourdes Tiban, a prominent and respected leader of Ecuador's indigenous people.

As an indigenous leader, Ms. Tiban has become one of the most outspoken advocates for freedom of expression, indigenous rights, and social rights in Ecuador. Not surprisingly, this has made her the target of verbal attacks by President Rafael Correa.

Earlier this year, Ms. Tiban was beaten by unidentified assailants as she was walking to work. The assault was filmed and then shared online by government supporters who posted humiliating comments.

This isn't the first time that Ms. Tiban has been physically assaulted. She is the victim of two other similar incidents which I am told have not been properly investigated.

It is regrettable that, instead of vigorously investigating this latest attack against Ms. Tiban, a National Assembly member from President Correa's political party has brought a criminal case for libel against her. This is believed to be in retaliation for Ms. Tiban's claim that government supporters were responsible for targeting her, presumably in an attempt to silence her and remove her from the National Assembly.

Ecuador is a country where judicial independence is seriously compromised. I have spoken about this several times, and it has been well documented by the Department of State, the United Nations, and human rights organizations. It is also illustrated by the fact that the Council of the Judiciary, with the power to appoint and remove judges, is comprised of five former officials of the Correa administration. It is likely that the criminal investigation against Ms. Tiban could result in an unjust conviction.

We should condemn these attacks on freedom of expression, political rights, and the rights of indigenous people, and we should defend judicial independence which is fundamental to democracy in Ecuador and throughout the hemisphere.

Lourdes Tiban has devoted her legislative efforts to protecting human rights for her people, and I am confident that she will continue to do so as she is not easily intimidated. She has my support and the support of others who believe in the principles of democracy.

RECOGNIZING THE GRAND ISLE
COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, many talented Vermonters support local agencies charged with ensuring the safety of Vermont communities throughout the State, each and every day. Today I would like to recognize one such department—the Grand Isle County Sheriff's Department, which received two national Highway Safety Awards at last month's annual gathering of the International Association of Chiefs of Police in Chicago.

Grand Isle County lies in the north-west reaches of Vermont, covering five towns and 85 square miles of land. It is actually a chain of islands surrounded by the waters of Lake Champlain, with commanding views of the Adirondacks to the west and the Green Mountains to the east. Its communities swell with summer visitors who come to enjoy the "beauty spot" of the islands. While it is a rural area, Grand Isle County is also home to the busy Route 2 corridor that links the United States and Canada, a critical transportation route for commerce between the two countries. As such, Grand Isle provides unique challenges for Sheriff Ray Allen and his 13 sworn deputies who work to protect the safety of its visitors and residents while ensuring that traffic is not impeded.

The Grand Isle Sheriff's Department was one of only three small sheriff agencies to be recognized with the National Law Enforcement Safety Challenge award, as noted by the Burlington Free Press. The award cited the department's excellence in traffic safety, with specific focus on impaired driving and speeding violations.

Sheriff Allen's department was also honored with the National Sheriffs' Association's Top Traffic Safety Award, sharing that distinction with the Oklahoma County Sheriff's Office.

These two awards are a notable achievement for a small department and in no small part due to Sheriff Allen's strong leadership. Sheriff Allen is the type of law enforcement officer who cares deeply about the communities he serves and the department he represents. Sheriff Allen was sworn into office in 2011, following 20 years of service as a deputy sheriff. When he is not tending to highways, he is tending to the family's well-known apple orchard.

On the Grand Isle Sheriff's Department Web site, Sheriff Allen cites "the great working relationship with Local, State and Federal agencies" that his department enjoys. This, we know, does not happen by accident, and such cooperation is a trademark of successful policing.

"We will strive to build upon the confidence and trust the citizens of Grand Isle County have placed upon us by developing strong relationships with the community and providing high quality, cost effective law enforcement services." This is Sheriff Allen's pledge, and one supported by those who work with him.

With these awards, Sheriff Allen has done just that. He has made his department and his community proud. Congratulations, Sheriff Ray Allen.

TRIBUTE TO PRISCILLA HOBSON
HANLEY

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I wish to commemorate the contributions of Priscilla Hobson Hanley, who is retiring after more than 30 years of distinguished public service as staff in the U.S. Congress.

Since the very beginning of my service in the Senate nearly 19 years ago, Priscilla has been one of my most valued advisers. She has always provided me with expertise on health care issues and Social Security, and most recently, she has served as staff director for the Senate Aging Committee. She exemplifies the ideal public servant; integrity, thoroughness, a spirit of inquiry, and hard work characterize her service. Above all, Priscilla has always demonstrated her belief that it is an honor to serve the people of Maine and our Nation.

I first met Priscilla in 1984 when we both worked for Maine Senator Bill Cohen. After brief stints working in the House for two Congressmen from her native California, Priscilla was hired by Senator Cohen that year and developed an in-depth knowledge of health care issues. She became deputy staff director of the Aging Committee when Senator Cohen served as chairman.

When I assumed Senator Cohen's seat in 1997, Priscilla was one of the very first people I hired; thus I had a terrific expert in two subject areas of great concern to my Maine constituents: health care and senior issues. As health policy adviser and legislative assistant, Priscilla brought her intelligence and experience to bear on the complex and myriad issues of health care, biomedical research, access to care in rural areas, women's health, Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security. Through her leadership role on the Aging Committee staff, she advanced our priorities of improving retirement security, increasing funding for research on diseases like Alzheimer's and diabetes, and protecting against scams targeting seniors.

Three examples illustrate Priscilla's commitment to service. In 1997, my very first year in the Senate, we were considering a massive tax bill. At the last minute, a one-sentence provision appeared out of nowhere that was, beneath the innocuous wording, a \$50-billion tax giveaway to Big Tobacco. Priscilla spotted that one sentence in the 327-page bill, and we were able to put an end to the subsidy.

Priscilla also helped me start the Diabetes Caucus in the Senate in 1998. As a result of her dedication, funding for diabetes research has tripled since that year.

In 2003, our Nation was still reeling from the attacks of 9/11, and Congress

was working on a tax-cut bill to invigorate the struggling economy. A key to the success of that bill and to the economic rebound that followed was the temporary increase in the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage, or FMAP, to help States provide health care to low-income families. Priscilla led the way in developing that key provision.

From dramatic increases in funding for diabetes and Alzheimer's research to improvements in rural health care and advancements in mental health parity, Priscilla has played a leadership role. Her work, due to her unassuming nature, may often be unheralded, but her legacy is inspiring to all of us who serve.

When not working for the American people, Priscilla's great passion is a love of musical theater. In fact, a rare interruption in her more than three decades of service on the Hill came when she took a brief respite from Congress to help run an opera company in Virginia.

Priscilla has a particular fondness for the comic operas of Gilbert and Sullivan, and like Major General Stanley of *The Pirates of Penzance*, she has an encyclopedic knowledge of all things "vegetable, animal, and mineral." She truly is the very model of a modern Senate staffer, a model all should emulate.

A life so devoted to public service brings to mind the parable of the talents. The master, leaving on a journey, entrusts a servant with a portion of his treasure. Upon his return, the master is delighted to find that his wealth was been wisely invested and multiplied.

Priscilla Hobson Hanley entrusted the great treasure of intelligence, energy, and passion. She invested that treasure wisely and through hard work and determination multiplied its benefits to all. To her, I quote Scripture and say, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

TRIBUTE TO MARK FELTON

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I wish to recognize one of West Virginia's prized public servants, Mark Felton, on the occasion of his retirement. Through his various roles in the Region III Planning and Development Council, Mark has been an indispensable resource to the four counties he has served for over 30 years.

After earning his bachelor's and master's degrees in geography from Marshall University, Mark began his career in the transportation department of the regional planning council in 1983. Mark authored and supervised innumerable transportation-related studies that benefited residents of the region through improved roads, bridges, travel times, and safety.

The regional councils serve as integral partners in the planning and execution of infrastructure improvements, including water and sewer projects. During my time representing the 2nd