

and eventually secured a job with the South Carolina Ports Authority.

As a young kid, this was the granddaddy I knew, not one that let his circumstances hold him back or let his frustrations overtake his love for his family. After my parents' divorce, my mom, my brother, and I all moved into my grandparents' house—about 800 or 900 square feet and one bathroom. The three of us shared a bedroom—and were happy to do so.

What I remember most about my granddaddy from this time was, on so many mornings, he would sit down at the kitchen table, have a cup of coffee, and leaf through the newspaper. He wanted us to see him reading, reinforcing the importance of doing well in school. It wasn't until years later that I learned he couldn't read.

My cousin also loves to tell the story of how granddaddy would wake up to do the laundry at 4 a.m. and make sure everyone else got up and started working as well. That work ethic and dedication started to funnel down through the rest of our family and showed us all the importance of hard work.

Granddaddy's messages worked—my brother recently retired as a command sergeant major after 30 years in the Army, my cousin is a preacher in North Charleston, and I eventually got my own act together as well. My nephew, granddaddy's great-grandson, has earned his undergrad from Georgia Tech, his master's at Duke, and is now headed to medical school at Emory.

That is the power of a strong role model, someone who knows there is a better future out there for his family. In my granddaddy's lifetime, our family went from cotton to Congress, and I could never even pretend to thank him enough. He was the rock for our family—our trailblazer.

#### CONTRIBUTIONS OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN ARMY ENGINEERS TO THE STATE OF ALASKA

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the immense contributions of the African-American community to my State of Alaska and to our great Nation.

I want to highlight in particular a contingent of troops, members of the African-American Army Engineers, who were stationed in Alaska during World War II, hundreds of men who served our Nation at a time when their basic human rights were being denied, some 6 years before the military was desegregated. In spite of that despicable injustice, they exhibited a great love for this country, even a willingness to die for this country.

These soldiers were stationed in Alaska among several regiments assigned to build the ALCAN—Alaska-Canada—Highway. For a State as big and diverse as Alaska, infrastructure is critically important to the well-being of our communities. And in the 1940s, infrastructure assets—roads, bridges, ports—were few and far between. In

fact, there was no road linking the contiguous United States to Alaska through Canada. We were isolated.

We think of construction projects today, the many tools and machines our hard-working crews have at their disposal. But back then, many of those technologies and advancements didn't exist, making this enormous undertaking all the more daunting. Worse still, the machinery that was available was often given to the all-White units, leaving the African-American servicemembers ill-equipped. Nonetheless, the men of the African-American Army Engineers labored on under extreme weather conditions, creating a roughly 1,700 mile cross-continental corridor in a mere 8 months.

The project, too, came at a time when our Nation was under imminent threat in the Pacific, just 2 months after the attack on Pearl Harbor. Our country needed to get supplies and soldiers to the furthest stretches of U.S. territory. Without the ALCAN, Alaska would not be the cornerstone of our national defense in the Pacific and the Arctic, nor the prosperous land of opportunity we see today.

For these enormous contributions and for their selfless service to our country, we thank the thousands of African-American servicemembers who for too long were dismissed and overlooked.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO DONNA MILLER

• Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize an individual who has gone above and beyond to save lives in the State of Nevada, Donna Miller. Ms. Miller's drive to provide a dependable health care option to the people of Tonopah is commendable. Her actions warrant only the greatest gratitude and recognition, and I am proud to honor her for her invaluable work for people across the Silver State.

Ms. Miller was born in Romania and immigrated to the United States in 1991. In 1996, she graduated from nursing school and moved to Las Vegas 3 years later. She obtained her flight nurse wings in 2001, beginning her career caring for others. In 2002, she helped found Life Guard International Air Ambulance, and in 2007, she reorganized it into Life Guard International—Flying ICU, Flying ICU. This incredible organization serves as a flying intensive care unit, transporting critically ill and injured patients from one hospital to another that offers more resources in a different location.

Beginning in 2009, Flying ICU served as a necessary resource to the Tonopah community, transporting all ill and injured patients from the Nye Regional Medical Center to facilities in Las Vegas and Reno. Unfortunately, last fall, the Nye Regional Medical Center closed its doors, leaving this rural community with a devastating lack of ac-

cess to health care. After the medical center's closing, Ms. Miller courageously decided to keep Flying ICU's Tonopah location, changing the organization to an emergency medical service, which treats and transports patients by plane while traveling to the closest hospital in Las Vegas or Reno. This service currently is the only resource in the region for the critically ill and injured to receive lifesaving care.

Ms. Miller also took the initiative to relocate a second plane to Tonopah and increase staff with additional critical care nurses, paramedics, and pilots to provide greater services to the local community. In order to minimize the amount of time that Tonopah's flight crews were away from the Tonopah station, Ms. Miller organized additional Flying ICU flight crews on standby at Nevada airports to allow patients to be further transported by the standby crew, allowing the flight crew to return to the station in a timely manner. Ms. Miller's work on this organization is one of a kind, and I am thankful for her work in saving the lives of Nevadans. Her decision to step up to the plate and provide the Tonopah community many medical resources it would otherwise be without remains invaluable for our State.

Today Flying ICU's services reach across the State, saving lives with four aircraft, a hangar at McCarran International Airport, and operation bases in Las Vegas and Tonopah. The organization employs over 50 medical and aviation professionals to help those in need. Flying ICU's reputation of safe and quality care is well deserved.

In 2014, Ms. Miller was elected as the president of the Nevada Nurses Association, district Three. She has received many awards for her actions, including being recognized as Ambassador for Peace by the International Women's Federation for World Peace in 2014, SBA's Nevada Woman-Owned Business of the Year Award in 2014, the 2014 Women of Distinction Awards—Entrepreneur of the Year, and as one of Las Vegas's 2015 Top 100 Women of Influence. These accolades are given only to those who have done extraordinary acts to earn them, and Ms. Miller without a doubt deserves each one. Nevada is fortunate to have someone like Ms. Miller representing our State. She is a shining example of selflessness for myself and others.

Ms. Miller has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to our State, saving lives and providing care to Nevadans in need. Her drive to help those around her is inspiring, and I thank her for all of her hard work. I ask my colleagues and all Nevadans to join me in thanking Ms. Miller for her many contributions to our State. I wish her well as she continues her efforts to help those in need and in servicing the city of Tonopah and those across central Nevada.●

# TRIBUTE TO JENNIFER SPROUT

• Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate Jennifer Sprout on her retirement after serving as CEO of the Elko Area Chamber of Commerce for 6 years. It gives me great pleasure to recognize her years of service to the city of Elko's business community.

Ms. Sprout grew up in California and moved to Elko when she was 19 years old. Prior to working for the chamber, she served as account manager and general manager for Holiday Broadcasting of Elko. In 2009, Ms. Sprout accepted the position of CEO at the Elko Area Chamber of Commerce. As CEO, she served as a powerful voice for Elko businesses, working to bring awareness to issues affecting this community.

She also spearheaded efforts to grow outside recognition of the resources the city has to offer and provided opportunities for business leaders to come together. The city of Elko is recognized as a tourist destination and economic hub for the northeastern part of Nevada, due in part to Ms. Sprout's hard work and unwavering dedication to growing the community. To say she has had a positive impact on the city of Elko would be an understatement. The strong foundation she has built throughout her tenure will be felt for years to come.

The Elko Area Chamber of Commerce was established on April 1, 1907, to support the local business community and promote the city of Elko. Today the chamber has over 700 businesses represented through various members. This incredible organization has helped businesses through times of economic downturn and recovery to stay on their feet and succeed. Through the incredible work of the Elko Area Chamber of Commerce, Elko's business community continues to thrive and maintain a high quality of life for residents. The city of Elko is fortunate to have had someone like Ms. Sprout leading the way at this important chamber.

Ms. Sprout has demonstrated professionalism, commitment to excellence, and dedication to the highest standards during her tenure at the Elko Area Chamber of Commerce. I am both humbled and honored by her service and am proud to call her a fellow Nevadan.

Today I ask all of my colleagues to join me in congratulating Ms. Sprout on her retirement from the chamber and in wishing her well at her new position with Design Concepts. I give my deepest appreciation for all that she has done for the city of Elko.●

## REMEMBERING DR. ROBERT B. HAYLING

• Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the achievements of Dr. Robert B. Hayling, a civil rights leader in Florida who passed away on December 20, 2015, at the age of 86.

Dr. Hayling was born in Tallahassee and graduated from Florida Agricul-

tural & Mechanical College. Upon graduation, Dr. Hayling served in the U.S. Air Force. Dr. Hayling went on to receive his degree in dentistry from Meharry Medical College and became the first African-American dentist in Florida to be elected to the local, regional, State, and national components of the American Dental Association.

Throughout his years as a community leader and civil rights activist in St. Augustine, Dr. Hayling faced numerous threats, hate speech, and brutal violence at the hands of the Ku Klux Klan. Nevertheless, Dr. Hayling persevered in his resolve for racial equality and is widely recognized as a father of the St. Augustine civil rights movement. During a time of widespread racial divide, Dr. Hayling served as an adviser to the youth council of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and as head of the St. Augustine chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the national organization of which Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was president.

Dr. Hayling is the recipient of various honors and awards, including the Order of La Florida and the de Aviles award which honors citizens that have dedicated themselves to the community of St. Augustine. Scott Street in St. Augustine has been renamed Dr. Robert B. Hayling Place in his honor.

Dr. Hayling was inducted into the Florida Civil Rights Hall of Fame and received a certificate of recognition by St. Augustine's mayor. Even his old dental office became the first civil rights museum in Florida. Further, State Senator Tony Hill sponsored the Dr. Robert B. Hayling Award of Valor, which is presented to civil rights heroes, and a bronze plaque testifying to Dr. Hayling's contributions hangs in the lobby of the Florida State Capitol.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and thank Dr. Robert B. Hayling for his commitment, achievements, and dedication in advancing the cause of racial equality and civil rights on both a national and State level.

I offer my heartfelt condolences to the family, friends, and loved ones of Dr. Robert B. Hayling.●

## MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

## EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

## MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:47 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 238. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to authorize the Director of the Bureau of Prisons to issue oleoresin capicum spray to officers and employees of the Bureau of Prisons.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 812. An act to provide for Indian trust asset management reform, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1475. An act to authorize a Wall of Remembrance as part of the Korean War Veterans Memorial and to allow certain private contributions to fund that Wall of Remembrance.

H.R. 2880. An act to redesignate the Martin Luther King, Junior, National Historic Site in the State of Georgia, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3004. An act to amend the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Act to extend the authorization for the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission.

H.R. 3371. An act to adjust the boundary of the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park to include the Wallis House and Harriston Hill, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3620. An act to amend the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Improvement Act to provide access to certain vehicles serving residents of municipalities adjacent to the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, and for other purposes.

### ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH) announced that on today, February 25, 2016, he has signed the following enrolled bills, which were previously signed by the Speaker of the House:

H.R. 487. An act to allow the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma to lease or transfer certain lands.

H.R. 890. An act to revise the boundaries of certain John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System units in Florida.

H.R. 3262. An act to provide for the conveyance of land of the Illiana Health Care System of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Danville, Illinois.

H.R. 4056. An act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to convey to the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs all right, title, and interest of the United States to the property known as "The Community Living Center" at the Lake Baldwin Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic, Orlando, Florida.

H.R. 4437. An act to extend the deadline for the submittal of the final report required by the Commission on Care.

### ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 12:09 p.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:

S. 2109. An act to direct the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to develop an integrated plan to reduce administrative costs under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).