

reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities and help ensure that Japan is able to continue to monitor and deter regional threats. The JASDF will have no difficulty absorbing these systems into its armed forces.

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#### JUNIOR RESERVE OFFICER TRAINING CORPS

Mr. GARDNER. Madam President, I rise today to honor the 100th anniversary of the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps, JROTC. On June 3, 1916, Congress passed the National Defense Act, establishing the JROTC. This program teaches students the values of our Armed Forces through training and classroom instruction with military personnel.

This influential program encourages leadership, fortitude, and personal responsibility. The JROTC has experienced a long history of success, and millions of high school students have completed the program since its inception. Not only do these students learn military history and customs, but participants gain a deeper understanding of civic engagement, community service, and the importance of character building.

Out of the many high school students who participate in JROTC each year, 30 to 50 percent go on to serve in the U.S. military later in life. The program also connects high school students with universities that offer the Reserve Officer Training Corps program and helps many students who may have not otherwise earned a college degree.

I would also like to recognize the 35 schools in Colorado that offer the JROTC program. In Colorado, there are 2 Marine Corps JROTC units, 8 Air Force JROTC units, 4 Navy units, and 21 Army units. I am proud of the accomplishments of the JROTC students, and I know they have a bright future ahead of them.

Please join me in honoring Adams City High School, Northridge High School, Aurora Central High School, Westminster High School, Harrison High School, William Mitchell High School, Air Academy High School, Skyview Academy, Glenwood Springs High School, Doherty High School, Montrose High School, Mesa Ridge High School, Widefield High School, Pueblo County High School, Pueblo East High School, North High School, Abraham Lincoln High School, Denver South High School, Manual High School, Loveland High School, Thomas Jefferson High School, Pueblo West High School, Centennial High School, Central High School, Pueblo South High School, Delta High School, Central High School—Pueblo, Montebello Senior High School, West High School, George Washington High School, John F. Kennedy High School, Fountain Fort Carson High School, East High School, and Canon City High School.

#### REMEMBERING GARY M. ORLANDO, SR.

Mr. TOOMEY. Madam President, today I wish to honor the life of Mr. Gary M. Orlando, Sr. Mr. Gary Orlando passed away on Sunday, October 25, at the Erie VA Medical Center. A tireless and longtime advocate for veterans, Gary sat on the board of directors for the Paralyzed Veterans of America, PVA. He was also a member of the Disabled American Veterans, DAV.

Gary was an Erie, PA, native, born on November 8, 1951. He served with the U.S. Army during the Vietnam war as a door gunner on a helicopter. While serving in Vietnam, he survived being shot down and was awarded the Army Commendation Medal, two Good Conduct Medals, and the National Defense Service Medal.

Following his service with the Army, Gary worked for the U.S. Postal Service in Erie. In his free time, he enjoyed hunting, volunteering, and participating in the Wheelchair Games. He was also an avid fan of the Erie Otters Hockey Club. Gary was a relentless advocate for our veterans, a friendly face, and a supporter for countless veterans in the Erie area.

Gary is survived by two sons, two grandchildren, one great-granddaughter, one brother, one brother-in-law, and several nieces and nephews. He was laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery, an honor he richly deserved.

On behalf of the U.S. Senate, I wish to express my thanks for Mr. Orlando's steadfast service to our Nation and his commitment to our veterans.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO WALTER EVANS

• Mr. DAINES. Madam President, today I wish to recognize Walter Evans, a 14-year-old native Montanan and member of the Boy Scouts of America, troop 214, for his service to his community. Walter's Court of Honor is scheduled for April 12, 2016, where he will earn the Eagle Scout Award. His Eagle Scout project was a trail building project for the Prickly Pear Land Trust in the South Hills of Helena. Walter's project alone involved 230 volunteer hours and provided for the creation of a beautiful new trail used by mountain bikers, hikers, and dog walkers.

Walter is an excellent leader and always keeps a great attitude. Doug Wheeler, scoutmaster to Troop 214 stated, "Walter is a great example of a Boy Scout in his character attributes. Of particular note are his compassion, enthusiasm to serve others, and polite manner. These attributes, as well as his other traits, will help him do great things in his life."

Walter, thank you for your service to Montana at such an early age. We look forward to seeing your future successes.●

#### REMEMBERING GILBERT HORN, SR.

• Mr. DAINES. Madam President, today I wish to honor Gilbert Horn, Sr., an Assiniboiné Tribal member and Montanan who exemplified leadership throughout his life. He passed away on March 27, at the age of 92.

Gilbert Horn was born May 23, 1923, on the Fort Belknap Indian reservation in Montana. He was an Assiniboiné chief, decorated war hero, WWII combat veteran, and code talker. In 1940 he entered the U.S. Army at the young age of 17. He was a member of the 163rd Infantry Battalion. Chief Horn received training in communication and encryption. He then volunteered to be a code talker using his native Assiniboiné Tribe language to disguise U.S. military communications against the Japanese.

He volunteered for the Merrill's Marauders, a deep penetration unit commanded by MG Frank Merrill. They spent 5 months of field operations in Burma and western China and completed an 800-mile journey across the Himalaya Mountains in order to cut Japanese communications and supply lines. Chief Horn survived the journey with chest, back, and jaw wounds. He was honorably discharged, having received the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star.

After returning to the Fort Belknap Indian reservation he served as chairman and council member of the Fort Belknap Community Council. He was awarded an honorary doctorate in humanitarian services from MSU Northern in 2013. Then in 2014 he had the honor of being named the honorary chief of the Fort Belknap Assiniboiné Tribe, a title that had not been awarded since the 1890s.

I extend my condolences to his family and to the entire Fort Belknap Indian community. We have lost a true American and a great Montanan.●

#### RECOGNIZING ARKANSAS POST NATIONAL MEMORIAL AND PARK

• Mr. COTTON. Madam President, in honor of the National Parks Service's 100th birthday year, I want to recognize Arkansas Post National Memorial and Park. Arkansas Post was established as a trading post by Henri De Tonti in 1686 and was the first permanent European settlement in the lower Mississippi River valley. While the exact location moved several times, the area remained a vital trade center for much of the 17th and 18th centuries. The land was eventually ceded to Spain, who controlled the post for over 40 years. While under Spanish control, Arkansas Post was home to the Battle of Arkansas Post, a Revolutionary War battle between Spanish and British forces fought on April 17, 1783. Also known as the Colbert Raid, this battle was the only Revolutionary War battle to take place in what is today the State of Arkansas. Arkansas Post was

briefly ceded back to the French before it was sold to the U.S. Government during the Louisiana Purchase.

Today Arkansas Post National Memorial and Park is located in Arkansas County, AR. It was designated a National Memorial and National Historic Landmark in 1960 and was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1966. The National Park Service manages over 650 acres of park land at the site, and there is a State-managed visitors center and museum featuring display of Arkansas Post's rich history. Arkansas Post is a must-visit for any Arkansan looking to get out and enjoy the rich history of our State—especially those interested in the Revolutionary War. I would like to thank the National Park Service for its commitment to maintaining this important part of Arkansas history.●

#### REMEMBERING HILLIARD FLETCHER

● Mr. SHELBY. Madam President, today I wish to honor the life of my friend Hilliard Fletcher of Tuscaloosa, AL, who passed away on March 13, 2016. He will be remembered as a skilled businessman, a devoted public servant, and a man who deeply cared about the city of Tuscaloosa.

A native of Mobile, Hilliard graduated from the University of Alabama in 1957. He went on to serve our country as an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps and served for 14 years in the Reserves, retiring with the rank of major.

Hilliard was the president of Duckworth-Morris Insurance Company and also served with distinction four terms as finance and waterworks commissioner on the Tuscaloosa City Commission. During those 16 years, he played an instrumental role in the creation of the mayor-council model of municipal government that we know today. He was also influential in the efforts that led to Congress passing the Lake Tuscaloosa Protection Act, which prevented the Federal Government from installing a hydroelectric powerplant on Lake Tuscaloosa's dam in 1970.

In addition to his many years of service to the city of Tuscaloosa, Hilliard was a true leader in his community—serving on numerous boards and working with various charitable and business organizations. He served on the board of directors of First Alabama Bank, was the president of the United Way of West Alabama, and was president and director of the Exchange Club of Tuscaloosa. He also served as a board member and officer of the Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama, was a member of the board of directors and membership chairman of the YMCA of Tuscaloosa, and was the Chairman of the Heart Fund Drive. Hilliard was on the DCH Foundation Board, was director of the Alabama League of Municipalities, and was a deacon of First Presbyterian Church of Tuscaloosa.

Hilliard's many accomplishments, as well as his contributions to the city of

Tuscaloosa and West Alabama, will not be soon forgotten. Tuscaloosa named the city's wastewater treatment plant after him in 1998. The Community Foundation of West Alabama named him a "Pillar of West Alabama" in 2010 for his dedicated efforts and service to the area.

The city of Tuscaloosa and the State of Alabama were fortunate to have a leader and a great man like Hilliard Fletcher, and he will be sorely missed. I offer my deepest condolences to his wife, Betty; his daughter, Beth Lubin; and his sons, Douglas and Curtis, as they celebrate his many life accomplishments and mourn this great loss.●

#### TRIBUTE TO MANSOUR KARIM

● Mr. THUNE. Madam President, today I recognize Mansour Karim of Pierre, SD. Mr. Karim's life story is inspiring, and his contributions to his community and the State of South Dakota are worthy of commendation.

Born and raised in Tehran, Iran, to a poor family, Mr. Karim dreamed of moving to the United States to pursue his higher education. That dream became a reality in November of 1950, when Mr. Karim arrived at the Port of New York and New Jersey with a limited English vocabulary and only \$27 in his pocket. He had originally planned to attend the University of Michigan, but was worried that the growing Iranian immigrant population there would keep him from being immersed in the culture of the United States. He decided to study at Huron College in Huron, SD.

Mr. Karim's journey to South Dakota was challenged by the barriers of an unfamiliar nation, but he had his faith and was often helped by strangers along the way. He studied at Huron College for a year before transferring to South Dakota State College, now known as South Dakota State University, from which he graduated in 1955 with a degree in civil engineering. He would later receive his master's degree in engineering from the same school. Mr. Karim served 35 years with the South Dakota Department of Transportation in South Dakota's capital city of Pierre. Though a dedicated civil servant, he found his passion doing something he never could have done in his home country of Iran.

He invested in rental properties, starting modestly. Eventually, through hard work, wise investment, and trusted relationships, he achieved great success in providing affordable, quality rentals for residents in the Pierre area. Mr. Karim did not do this alone. His wife, Ruth, provided support to the enterprise as the two of them raised their seven children.

Ruth Karim cofounded South Dakota Right to Life and served as its executive director for 19 years. Prior to Ruth passing away in 2013, Mr. Karim worked with the Saint Mary's Foundation in Pierre to set up the Ruth Karim Endowment that would help nursing

students who value protecting the sanctity of life and fund their education at Ruth's alma mater, the University of South Dakota.

When looking back on his life, Mr. Karim is quick to recognize those who helped him move to South Dakota. He also remembers how, as a young child, he gave a beggar a penny, though he wished he had been able to give more. That giving nature has continued throughout his life, with Mr. Karim having given more than \$2 million to charities throughout South Dakota, with a focus on education and children's needs. He created the Mansour and Ruth Karim Scholarship Endowment in 2004 at South Dakota State University. Due to these charitable contributions Mr. Karim has been the recipient of many awards, including being named Pierre's Outstanding Philanthropist of the Year in 2011.

I, like the residents of Pierre and others across South Dakota, have had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Karim. His passion for the United States and the freedoms it affords and his genuine care for his community is contagious. In conversations, Mr. Karim will often say that his experience could only be possible in the United States. His story is another real-life example of the American dream as reality and what makes our Nation great, to succeed and to give back, so that others may succeed.

It is for these reasons that I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to Mr. Karim for his generous philanthropic work and thank him for making South Dakota his home.●

#### TRIBUTE TO SHUKRI JAMA

● Mr. THUNE. Madam President, today I recognize Shukri Jama, 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.

Shukri is a graduate of South Sioux City High School in South Sioux City, NE. Currently, Shukri is attending the University of South Dakota, where she is majoring in political science and history. Shukri is a dedicated worker who has been committed to getting the most out of her experience.

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

#### TRIBUTE TO ADAM KOST

● Mr. THUNE. Madam President, today I recognize Adam Kost, an intern in my Washington, DC, office for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Adam is a graduate of Roosevelt High School in Sioux Falls, SD. Currently, Adam is attending Augustana University, where he is majoring in government and international affairs. Adam is a dedicated worker who has been committed to getting the most out of his experience.