

ME. Maintaining the structural and functional integrity of our Navy's submarines enables the United States to consistently serve and protect our Nation's interests around the globe, and the NAS NSE of Portsmouth Naval Shipyard serves as a paragon of efficient, quality service on behalf of our Navy's ships and servicemen. Portsmouth has earned a reputation as the Navy's Center of Excellence for attack submarine maintenance, which is a reflection of the hard work and determination of the association to manage and protect these American treasures for national security. Through their consistent dedication and skillful work, the men and women of Portsmouth Naval Shipyard play a vital role in furthering the esteemed tradition of excellence within the NAS NSE.

Building on over a century of work to promote our Navy's strength, this year's historic convention focuses on the national initiative of improving productive capacity throughout the association. This year's convention will help to further streamline systems, optimize production, and enhance safety across all the NAS NSE's operations. Discussing and implementing improved strategies will help to ensure the continued effectiveness of Portsmouth Naval Shipyard and shipyards all across the country.

I congratulate the NAS NSE on their 100th convention, and I thank them for their dedication and hard work on behalf of our shipyards. I wish them continued success in the future as the association continues to ensure the safety of our Nation for generations to come.

OBSERVING THE HOLIDAY OF VAISAKHI FOR THE SIKH COMMUNITY

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, I wish to honor and celebrate the holiday of Vaisakhi, a very important day for those who practice Sikhism.

The world's fifth largest religion, Sikhism was founded over five centuries ago and was introduced to the United States in the 19th century. There are over 500,000 Sikh adherents in the United States.

Pennsylvania is the home of many proud Sikh Americans, who contribute and make a positive impact in their workplaces, communities, and to our country. They are part of the rich cultural fabric of the Commonwealth.

As a member of the American Sikh Congressional Caucus, I rise to honor this community on the holiday of Vaisakhi. This is an important celebration for the Sikh community and is celebrated this year on April 13. On this day in 1699, Guru Gobind Singh created the Khalsa, a fellowship of devout Sikhs. Vaisakhi is a festival which marks this occasion and the spring harvest.

The Sikh community around the world recognizes this important holiday with parades, dancing, singing, and

other festivities. Celebrations also include performing seva, or selfless service, such as providing free meals to others and volunteering for service projects in their communities.

I am proud to represent the Sikh community of Pennsylvania, and I wish the Sikh American community a joyous Vaisakhi.

Thank you.

HONORING OFFICER NATHAN TAYLOR

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of California Highway Patrol Officer Nathan Daniel Taylor, a beloved husband, father, brother, son, and grandson who tragically lost his life in the line of duty on March 13, 2016.

Officer Taylor was born on January 17, 1981, in Baltimore, MD. His family later moved to Loomis, CA, where Officer Taylor was an active member of the Boy Scouts, earning the highest rank of Eagle Scout. After graduating from Del Oro High School, Officer Taylor attended Brigham Young University on a full academic scholarship and received a bachelor's degree in history. He spent 2 years in Venezuela serving as a church missionary before joining the California Highway Patrol, continuing his commitment to helping those in need. Officer Taylor completed cadet training in 2010 and was assigned to the San Jose area office before transferring to the Gold Run area in 2013.

Colleagues fondly recalled Officer Taylor's tremendous service to the public, offering examples of his selflessness and compassion. "Officer Taylor was the most genuine, honest officer I knew," said CHP Officer Josh Webb. "He would literally give the shirt off his back for somebody." His ability to go above and beyond the call of duty also earned the appreciation and affection of the community he served. In fact, he received so many thank-you letters from the public that his colleagues joked that he must have written them himself.

Officer Taylor truly embodied the very best of law enforcement, and his courageous service will be forever remembered. On behalf of the people of California, whom Officer Taylor served so bravely, I extend my gratitude and deepest sympathies to his wife, Becky; sons Preston, Wyatt, and Joshua; parents, Jeff and Linda; brothers Karl, Collin, and Steven; sister, Sarah; and grandparents, Karl and Virginia.

TRIBUTE TO JANET AIRIS

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I join with the vice chairwoman of the Appropriations Committee, Senator MIKULSKI, and the chairman and ranking member of the Budget Committee, Senator ENZI and Senator SANDERS, in honoring Janet Airis on her retirement after 32 years of distinguished service to the Congress with the Congressional Budget Office. Janet is highly regarded

by both Republicans and Democrats on both sides of the Capitol for her encyclopedic knowledge of the appropriations and budget process and its lexicon, her responsiveness to committee and Member staff, and her dedication to the nonpartisan role that CBO plays in the successful enactment of appropriations bills year after year. Janet has been a valuable asset to eight of the nine CBO directors.

Janet came to CBO in the waning days of 1983, fairly soon after graduating from Wellesley College. She joined the scorekeeping unit in the budget analysis division, which has the responsibility of tracking and scoring the appropriations bills at each legislative stage as well as tracking mandatory spending in authorizing legislation. Janet was hired to assist in maintaining the database used by the division. Janet has worked to keep the database in sync with the many changes in the budget process, integrating new categories and methods so that CBO could accurately tabulate and report on Federal spending. Janet started as the scorekeeper for the defense and military construction appropriation bills. Over the course of her career, she also handled the Transportation, Veterans Affairs, Housing and Urban Development and Agriculture, and legislative branch appropriations bills, in the process gaining a vast array of knowledge of a substantial part of the Federal budget.

In 2000, Janet made the transition to unit chief. For the past 16 years, she has successfully overseen the analysis of the President's budget request for each of the appropriation bills, the scoring of the appropriation bills at each stage, the production and review of baselines, and the writing and coordination of CBO's annual report on unauthorized appropriations and expiring authorizations. Through all of these tasks, she has been the steady hand of the scorekeeping unit, generous with her time and knowledge, and vital to the smooth functioning of the budget analysis division. Senate staff and colleagues have come to depend on her for her ready expertise, diligence, and attention to detail.

Janet is also famous for sharing her prodigious baking talent. Every year she has coordinated the provision of cookies during the conclusion of the December baseline, which often coincided with the final days of a congressional session. The appearance of a red-clothed table outside of the scorekeeping unit bearing plates of homemade cookies always brings a smile to stressed budget analysts checking final numbers or scoring final bills.

Janet's expertise, corporate knowledge, and generosity of time and spirit will be sorely missed, but she well deserves an opportunity to rest after her years of outstanding service to the Congress. We are grateful for that service, and we wish her the best in the years to come.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING JAMES BARRETT
MCNULTY

• Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to James Barrett McNulty, former mayor of my hometown Scranton, PA. Former Mayor McNulty was a dedicated public servant who made a lasting impact on Scranton and all of Pennsylvania.

Born on February 27, 1945, in the High Works section of Scranton, Jim attended South Scranton and South Catholic High School. In 1966, he graduated from the University of Scranton as student body president with a bachelor of arts in political science. A member of the Young Democrats for John F. Kennedy, Jim McNulty answered President Kennedy's call to young people to serve their community and their country.

The extraordinary love that Mayor McNulty had for public service and for the people of Scranton was felt by all who had the good fortune of being in his presence. As a committed public servant, Jim McNulty joined the staff of Congressman Dan Flood and then transitioned to work on the mayoral race in Scranton in 1969. By 1974, Jim was deputy mayor. He quickly rose through the ranks as director of the Department of Public Works, chairman of the Scranton Redevelopment Authority, chairman of the Scranton Recreation Authority, City of Scranton Urban Affairs coordinator and member of the City of Scranton Government Study Commission. In 1981, he was elected to serve as the 26th mayor of Scranton.

John F. Kennedy once said: "For I can assure you that we love our country, not for what it was, though it has always been great—not for what it is, though of this we are deeply proud—but for what it someday can, and, through the efforts of us all, someday will be." Jim McNulty was a visionary mayor who saw the greatness in the city of Scranton and its people. He fought tirelessly to make life better for residents with his instrumental actions in making the Steamtown Historic Site and the Hilton at Lackawanna Station a reality.

His joyful presence around Scranton left an indelible mark long after his mayoralty ended. Mayor McNulty's voice would paint a picture of the city of Scranton through his public affairs program "Sunday Live" with Jim McNulty and WARM radio talk show "the Mayor of WARMland."

May his memory live on through the love of his wife, Evie; the McNulty family; his many friends; and the ongoing efforts to enhance the Scranton community. We honor him for his love for all the people of northeastern Pennsylvania and his commitment to service.●

TRIBUTE TO OFFICER MICHAEL
STONEKING

• Mrs. ERNST. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Eastern Iowa Airport Transportation Security Officer Michael Stoneking for recent actions he took to aid a choking passenger.

Officer Michael Stoneking, while on duty at Eastern Iowa Airport in Cedar Rapids, IA, was on his way to take his break when he was alerted by another airport employee that a passenger was in distress. Officer Stoneking was directed to a female passenger who had her hands at her throat indicating that she was choking. Officer Stoneking performed the Heimlich maneuver and was able to successfully remove the obstruction from the passenger's throat, allowing her to breathe clearly. The passenger's family and the passenger, once able to speak, thanked Officer Stoneking and credited him with saving her life. Official Transportation Security Administration reports from the scene praise Officer Stoneking for his command presence and calm professionalism, stating that his ability to think clearly and react saved a life.

At a time when transportation security is on everyone's mind, it is comforting to know that we have such capable security officers in our airports. Those who go above and beyond the call of duty, as Officer Stoneking did, are to be commended and serve as an example of what dedicated law enforcement officers can accomplish.

I am very proud today to share Officer Stoneking's story with our colleagues and would ask that they join me in commending Officer Stoneking for his actions that saved a passenger's life.

Thank you.●

CONGRATULATING AIRBUS
EMPLOYEES IN MOBILE, ALABAMA

• Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, today I commend Airbus and its employees at the Mobile Aeroplex facility on the completion of their first aircraft, the Airbus A321. This great achievement was years in the making, and I am delighted that Mobile is home to the first A321 built in the United States.

Aviation manufacturing is extremely valuable to the State of Alabama's economy. Airbus plays a significant role in this sector, which brings welcomed job creation and economic growth to south Alabama and across the State. Airbus's presence in Alabama also underscores the fact that our great State is open for business, leading the Nation in both cutting-edge technology and workforce.

It is my great honor to congratulate Airbus and all of those who played a role in the making of this momentous occasion. I look forward to many more accomplishments by Airbus's Mobile facility and additional aircraft that will be proudly made in Alabama.●

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVER-
SITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA WOM-
EN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

• Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I congratulate the University of South Dakota, USD, Coyotes women's basketball team as they celebrate winning the 2016 Women's National Invitation Tournament, WNIT.

The Coyotes won their first WNIT championship by outscoring the Florida Gulf Coast Eagles 71-65. The win was especially poignant as the WNIT championship game was the last women's basketball game to be held in USD's iconic DakotaDome. Starting next season, USD basketball games will be held in a brand-new facility, and the record turnout for the championship game was a fitting way to end the DakotaDome's 37-year history.

The Coyotes were led by head coach, Amy Williams, who received her second consecutive Coach of the Year honor from the Summit League earlier in the season. Seniors Tia Hemiller and Nicole Seekamp were named to the WNIT All-Tournament team, with Seekamp also being recognized as the Most Valuable Player of the Postseason WNIT. Seekamp is also the 2016 Summit League Women's Basketball Player of the Year.

Once again, congratulations to the entire USD Coyotes women's basketball team on this impressive accomplishment. I commend the players and coaching staff for all of their hard work this season and wish them the best of luck in their future.●

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
OREGON AIR NATIONAL GUARD

• Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, today I am proud to join Oregonians all across our State in marking the 75th anniversary of the Oregon Air National Guard. For three-quarters of a century, thousands of Oregon's sons and daughters have joined the Air National Guard, dedicating themselves to defense of the Constitution of the United States and service to their fellow Americans and Oregonians. Today I want to take a moment, here on the Senate floor to thank them for their service and for their sacrifices on our behalf.

The Oregon Air National Guard traces its beginnings back to April 1941, when a small group of 110 airmen boldly stepped forward and volunteered for duty in the months before the U.S. entered the Second World War. Initially activated as the Oregon National Guard Air Corps 123rd Observation Squadron, their first mission was to conduct maritime surveillance of the continental United States following the attack on Pearl Harbor. In 1947, following the allied victory in World War II, Congress officially established the U.S. Air Force as a separate military service, apart from the U.S. Army, and designated the Air National Guard as a reserve component.

In the decades since, the Oregon Air National Guard has played a vital national defense role in the Korean war,