

Armenian people. And most importantly, it will reaffirm U.S. leadership in preventing and responding to similar atrocities and in advancing the rights of vulnerable populations around the world.

This year, as we take time to remember and honor the victims of the Armenian genocide, I hope the United States will finally stand on the right side of history and affirm the incontestable fact of the Armenian genocide.

#### TRIBUTE TO REAR ADMIRAL STEPHEN P. METRUCK

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I wish to honor U.S. Coast Guard RADM Stephen P. Metruck and highlight his service to country and his contribution to the State of Delaware. Rear Admiral Metruck retired on April 22 from commanding the Fifth Coast Guard District after 34 years in the U.S. Coast Guard. The fifth district includes North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, New Jersey, Delaware, Washington, DC, and much of Pennsylvania. Rear Admiral Metruck led 67 units made up of 2,475 Active Duty members, 1,010 Reservists, 6,800 auxiliary members, and 120 civilians.

One of Rear Admiral Metruck's most notable accomplishments occurred during his tenure at both Sector San Diego and Sector Seattle. In these dual roles, Rear Admiral Metruck was responsible for advancing Coast Guard operations in a post-9/11 environment. He forged interagency partnerships to enhance safety and security measures in each port and coordinated the sensors and systems into a common operational picture to allow all agencies to coordinate and understand potential threats in the maritime environment.

Rear Admiral Metruck and I got to know each other well during harsh, back-to-back winters that damaged navigation aids along the Delaware River, which assisted ships traveling to and from Wilmington, DE. From this experience, I learned that it is not easy budgeting for ice flows. Being an expert at budgeting and solving problems, he and his team forged solutions that replaced damaged buoys and aids to navigation without a huge burden on taxpayers. The result was ships could again travel safely to ports in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware.

Rear Admiral Metruck is a very humble man, and he will be the first to understate his contribution to the U.S. Coast Guard and leadership of the men and women under his command. Nevertheless, I have found him to be an extremely devoted public servant and skilled at working with other agencies, solving problems, and being responsive to inquiries from Senators.

Rear Admiral Metruck also spent 2½ years serving this great institution as a fellow with then-Senator John Kerry. He worked on policy issues related to the Commerce Subcommittee on Oceans and Fisheries and also supported Senator Kerry's staff on envi-

ronmental, maritime, and Coast Guard issues and legislation.

Prior to arriving at the Fifth Coast Guard District, he was the assistant commandant for resources and chief financial officer for the U.S. Coast Guard. During this assignment, he was responsible for all Coast Guard financial management and resource activities including planning, programming, budgeting, and execution of the service's \$10 billion annual appropriation.

While he has been a friend of commerce and the environment on the Delaware River, his career has resulted in him living in and serving a number of other States. He has served in Coast Guard Headquarters; Portsmouth, VA; Brownsville, TX; Tampa, FL; Buffalo, NY; San Diego, CA; and Puget Sound, WA. Rear Admiral Metruck also helped oversee Coast Guard missions across waterways encompassing the states of California, Arizona, Nevada, Utah, and the offshore waters of Mexico and Central America. Additionally, he served as U.S. Coast Guard Liaison to the U.S. Mission to the United Nations in New York City.

Rear Admiral Metruck is from Massena, NY, and graduated in 1982 from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, where he earned a bachelor of science degree in ocean engineering. He was awarded a master's degree in public administration from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. He has also served as a military fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, DC, and the Coast Guard fellow on the Chief of Naval Operations' Strategic Studies Group based in Newport, RI.

There are many of us in this Chamber who have worked with him and his staff on important issues over the years. Today I express our collective gratitude to him for devoting his career to keeping us safe. I speak for many in the Senate, in Delaware, and around our Nation in wishing Rear Admiral Metruck and his wife Peggy Duxbury a great next chapter in their lives.

#### TRIBUTE TO COLONEL MICHAEL FRANCIS

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, today I wish to honor a man who has served faithfully for 27 years in the U.S. Air Force, with the vast majority of that service in the Missouri Air National Guard. It is a big loss, but Col. Michael Francis is scheduled to depart the 131st Bomb Wing at Whiteman Air Force Base on May 15, 2016, after a long and distinguished record of service in the unit beginning July 28, 1998.

I think it is important to note that Colonel Francis has been associated with a unit whose history has spanned over nine decades and whose former members have included the likes of aviation pioneer Charles Lindbergh.

Colonel Francis commissioned in the U.S. Air Force in 1989 as a graduate of

the U.S. Air Force Academy and, after almost a decade, transitioned from Active Duty to the Air National Guard, continuing his dream of a career as a fighter pilot in the F-15 Eagle.

Throughout Colonel Francis's service at the 131st, he has seen the unit transition from the F-15, the Nation's premier homeland defense and air superiority aircraft, to the B-2, the Nation's lethal stealth bomber involved in global missions. Since being chosen to command the first B-2 Operations Group in the Air National Guard when the 131st transitioned from the F-15 Eagle to the B-2 Spirit, Colonel Francis has been a standout leader in the nuclear community. His achievements boast nothing less than perfection. As the present wing commander, Colonel Francis paved a new path for the National Guard by leading his unit to be the first bomb wing certified for full-spectrum nuclear operations and was entrusted with strategic nuclear deterrent operations for our country.

Throughout his long career at the 131st, Colonel Francis remained dedicated to the vital missions of the Air National Guard. However, he also never forgot his commitment to his wife, Jane, and sons, Greg and Brian.

While Colonel Francis might be leaving the 131st Bomb Wing, he will continue his selflessness in service to this great country. Colonel Francis will be reassigned to the Missouri National Guard Headquarters and promoted to brigadier general.

Again, I wish to extend Col. Michael J. Francis my sincere congratulations upon his new assignment and thanks for the years of service he has rendered to the 131st Bomb Wing, the State of Missouri, and the Nation.

#### ALASKA MISSION 6 HONOR FLIGHT

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize six veterans from Alaska who are in Washington this week as part of the Alaska Mission 6 Honor Flight. These veterans are here to witness and experience our Nation's most hallowed memorials—built to honor their service and sacrifice and that of their brothers and sisters in arms.

On behalf of Alaska's congressional delegation, our State, and our country, I welcome these heroes to Washington and extend to them my sincere gratitude for their service.

Participating in the Alaska Mission 6 Honor Flight are John J. Boulette and William K. Zimmer, U.S. Navy veterans of the Korean war; Alexander Crockett Blanchard and Alfred Dawkins, U.S. Army veterans of the Vietnam war; Neal Henry Dallman, a U.S. Navy veteran of the Vietnam war; and Arnold Patrick McDonald, a U.S. Marine Corps veteran of the Vietnam war.

Without the sacrifices of these six men and so many others, defending peace and liberty in some of the most dangerous corners of the world during

harrowing and dark times, we would not be able to enjoy the prosperity and freedom that are hallmarks of our great Nation to this day.

Since 2005, more than 170,000 veterans have participated in Honor Flights to Washington. Giving veterans the opportunity to make this trip is a small endeavor in comparison to the gravity of the challenges they faced, but it is an important gesture to let them know that their fellow Americans have not forgotten the hardships they endured on our behalf, nor the many men and women in uniform who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. Honor Flights are made possible principally thanks to the generous donations of patriotic Americans who want to give veterans the honor they deserve.

On behalf of all Alaskans, I wish to extend my sincerest thanks to the Alaska Mission 6 veterans, for the selfless dedication they have shown to our country, the often unheralded sacrifices of their families, and the enduring example they have given to future generations. May God bless these veterans, the great State of Alaska, and the United States of America.

#### TRIBUTE TO CRAIG BOBZIEN

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the outstanding service of Black Hills National Forest supervisor, Craig Bobzien, as he retires from the U.S. Forest Service. Craig was placed in charge of managing the Black Hills National Forest in May 2005, and for more than 10 years, the Black Hills National Forest has been under Craig's direct supervision.

Craig began his path to South Dakota as a 1973 graduate of Raytown South High School in Raytown, MO. After high school, he pursued his bachelor's degree in forest science at Colorado State University and then went on to serve in many roles in conservation and forestry. Previous to his appointment at the Black Hills National Forest, he served in other capacities for the U.S. Forest Service in Idaho, Montana, Washington State, and at the U.S. Forest Service headquarters in Washington, DC.

Since being appointed to oversee the Black Hills National Forest, Craig has been its longest serving supervisor. Over his tenure of almost 11 years, Craig has done an exceptional job as a steward of the Black Hills National Forest's 1.2 million acres in South Dakota and Wyoming. He managed those 1.2 million acres of forestland during some of the toughest fire seasons in recent memory.

Craig's leadership during the Rocky Mountain Region's devastating pine beetle epidemic has been instrumental as he coordinated with other Federal, State, and private stakeholders to combat one of the largest epidemics of this pest since the 1900s. Craig initiated the first large-landscape management area in the Black Hills National Forest for mountain pine beetle treatment,

which has set an example of topline management others are now following.

Over the years, I have appreciated the cooperation of Craig and his team of over 300 employees in our efforts to assess and address the many threats to the health of the Black Hills.

Craig, thank you for your service to South Dakota and our Nation.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO HUGH McDONALD

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Hugh McDonald, president of Entergy Arkansas, as he prepares to retire.

Hugh McDonald is a resident of Little Rock and has been with Entergy since 1982. He holds a bachelor's of science degree in construction management from North Dakota State University and a master of business administration degree from the University of New Orleans.

Hugh began his career at Entergy over 30 years ago in Louisiana, where he rose through the ranks before being promoted to director of regulatory affairs for Entergy Texas and then senior vice president of energy retail operations. He came to Arkansas 16 years ago to accept his current position.

Entergy Arkansas provides electricity to approximately 700,000 customers in 63 counties and is a subsidiary of Entergy Corporation. As the head of Arkansas' largest utility, McDonald demonstrated excellent leadership during his 16-year tenure. He led its decision to withdraw from the system agreement that forced Arkansas ratepayers to partially bear the cost of producing electricity in other Entergy States.

He also spearheaded the movement to join the Midcontinent Independent System Operator, which allowed greater access to economic generation resources and saved Arkansas customers \$46 million in the first year of participation.

Hugh is a past board member and board chair of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. He also serves on the boards of the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce, the Arkansas Research Alliance Board, the Little Rock Regional Chamber of Commerce, and Fifty for the Future. In addition, Hugh serves on the boards of the University of Arkansas Sam Walton College of Business Advisory Board, the UALR College of Business Advisory Council, the UAMS BioVentures Advisory Board, and the Nature Conservancy of Arkansas.

Let me reiterate how grateful I am for Hugh McDonald's management and vision during his time at the helm of Entergy Arkansas. His guidance and stewardship of the company has resulted in vital, reliable electricity for thousands of Arkansans across the State. I thank Hugh for his distinguished career and wish him well in retirement.●

##### TRIBUTE TO MARY LORRAINE WOOD BORMAN

• Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I would like to honor Mary Lorraine Wood Borman of Fayetteville, AR, as this week's Arkansan of the Week for her commitment to the National Down Syndrome Society as a self-advocate ambassador for the great State of Arkansas. Her advocacy to improve the quality of life for those living with down syndrome is noteworthy, and she is a joy and inspiration to many across the state.

Outside of her work as an activist, Mary is an involved and multitasking junior at Fayetteville High School in Fayetteville, AR. Not only does she excel academically—as indicated by her track record as an honor roll student—but she is also a gifted athlete and has won awards in swimming events at the Arkansas State Special Olympic Games for 3 years. Mary is also a talented dancer and actress, specializing in hip-hop, jazz, and the waltz.

I recently had the pleasure of meeting Mary when she visited my Washington, DC, office while in town for the Buddy Walk hosted each year by the National Down Syndrome Society. Because of Mary's advocacy and compelling reasoning, I cosponsored the ABLE to Work Act of 2016 shortly after our meeting. This bill will help persons with disabilities save additional amounts in their ABLE accounts.

Mary has big dreams, and I am confident she will achieve them. I look forward to keeping track of her many accomplishments.

Arkansas is lucky to have someone like Mary Borman fighting to make our State a better place, and I applaud her for her work. Her story is a testimony of the spirit of Arkansans, and I am certain it will inspire others to take action on causes that they believe in.●

##### RECOGNIZING THE BUFFALO NATIONAL RIVER

• Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, in honor of the National Park Service's 100th birthday year, I want to recognize the Buffalo National River, America's first national river. The Buffalo, nestled in within the picturesque Ozark Mountains, runs across four Arkansas counties and remains one of the few undammed rivers in the entire United States. It spans 135 miles and boasts many outdoor trails along which visitors experience beautiful bluffs, adventurous rapids, and have the opportunity to take part in a whole host of outdoor recreational activities. Undoubtedly, visitors to the Buffalo National River leave with an understanding of why Arkansas is proudly billed as "the Natural State."

This year the Buffalo National River has planned several celebratory events to commemorate the National Park Service's 100th birthday. These include