

ahead of time, locating a safe room or the safest areas in your home for each hurricane hazard, making a plan for your pets, and taking First Aid, CPR, or disaster preparedness classes.

On a Federal level, I have been working to implement precautionary measures. As chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee, I worked with my Republican and Democrat colleagues on the critically important Water Resources Development Act of 2016, which recently passed through the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. This bill would advance numerous hurricane protection efforts that will make our communities safer and better prepared for such disasters, most notably through the support it provides to coastal restoration efforts in Louisiana. Passing WRDA 2016 is an absolute top priority, and I will continue working to bring it to the Senate floor for a vote in the near future.

Regarding long-term preparedness, I am proud to announce that my bipartisan bill to reauthorize the National Estuary Program is on its way to the President's desk to be signed into law. Louisiana's estuaries create a natural buffer zone and have protected thousands of square miles of land along the coast, including some of the Nation's busiest ports, high-yielding fisheries, and vast oil and mineral deposits. My bill will make sure our critical estuaries are restored and preserved so that our coastal communities are better protected ahead of future storms.

Hurricanes are part of life, especially in Louisiana, but diligence and preparation can help reduce their impact on your family, home, and business. I urge you to take hurricane watches and warnings seriously. Please plan ahead for your family's safety, and encourage your neighbors to do the same.

REMEMBERING SELMER LELAND

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Selmer T. Leland, a decorated World War I veteran and longtime resident of Kalispell, MT.

Unfortunately Selmer is no longer with us, so I will be presenting his son, Orland Leland, with the medals he earned for his heroic service during World War I.

Orland, on behalf of myself, my fellow Montanans, and my fellow Americans, I would like to acknowledge your father's remarkable sacrifice and service to this Nation and thank you for your unwavering commitment to keeping his legacy alive.

Selmer was born on April 30, 1894, in Abercrombie, ND, to Isak and Sanna Leland.

He grew up alongside his seven siblings on their family farm in North Dakota. When Selmer was 8, the family moved to Canada.

Later, when he grew old enough, Selmer ventured out on his own to Montana, becoming a farmer in Big Sandy, before enlisting in the army at the age of 23.

It was in October of 1917 when Selmer joined the American Expeditionary Forces in France as a private of Company G, 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Brigade, 1st Division.

Selmer was shipped off, and by May of 1918, he had earned his first Purple Heart, after enduring an onslaught of mustard gas in weeks leading up to the Battle of Cantigny.

The attack cost him a lung and resulted in lifelong respiratory issues.

Just 10 weeks later, Selmer took a bullet to the shoulder in the Second Battle of Marne, earning him a bronze oakleaf cluster to adorn his Purple Heart.

He also sustained shrapnel wounds to his chest and, as his son Orland proudly tells it, he died, more than 60 years later, with that bullet still in his arm.

Despite these two devastating injuries, Selmer persevered, spending another year overseas, even after the war had ended, as a member of the American occupation forces in Germany.

When he finally returned to the States, in September of 1919, his company was invited to Washington, DC, to meet President Woodrow Wilson, so he could thank them personally for their service.

Eventually, Selmer moved back to his family's homestead in Canada to farm again. This is where he met the love of his life, Clara.

Clara was a Kalispell girl, born and raised, who was visiting family up in Canada when she met Selmer.

The two fell in love, and, in February of 1924, they returned to Kalispell to get married.

By December, they had their first son, Robert Leland, who followed in his father's footsteps by joining the Army during WWII and fighting in the Battle of the Bulge.

Robert eventually had five kids: Marvin, Melvin, Shirley, Mark, and Robert, Jr., who went on to serve in Vietnam.

Both Robert and Robert, Jr., have since passed on, but their generations of service won't soon be forgotten.

After spending some time in the Pacific Northwest, the family eventually settled down in Kalispell, where Selmer spent his career as a sawmill worker until retiring at the age of 65, but his work was far from done.

After retiring from the sawmill, Selmer became a logger, heading to work every day in the forests well into his seventies.

Twenty years after the birth of their first son, Clara and Selmer, now 50, welcomed their second son, Orland, who I have the distinct pleasure of being with today.

Both Orland and his wife, Janet, were born and raised in Kalispell and still reside here today.

Orland, who was a firefighter for 30 years, and Janet, who is the volunteer director at the Kalispell Regional Medical Center, have both continued this family's legacy of dedicated public service.

They also have five children—Dianna, Kevin, Tammy, Sam, and Curt—some of whom are here with us today.

Thank you all for being here to celebrate Selmer's life, legacy, and history.

I have the profound honor of presenting Selmer's son Orland Leland with his father's WWI medals: Purple Heart with one bronze oakleaf cluster; World War I Victory Medal with Montdidier Noyon, Aisne-Marne, St. Mihiel and Meuse-Argonne Battle Clasp and France Service Clasp; and World War I Victory Button—Silver.

Orland, these medals serve as a small token of our country's appreciation for your father's heroic service and profound sacrifice.

He is truly an American hero, and we have the utmost gratitude for his service.

REMEMBERING FRED DE ROCHE

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Fred D. De Roche, a decorated World War II veteran, Blackfeet tribal member, and lifelong resident of Browning, MT.

Fred was killed in action, bravely defending this Nation, so I will be presenting his son, Art De Roche, with the medals his father earned during World War II.

Art, on behalf of myself, my fellow Montanans, and my fellow Americans, I would like to acknowledge your father's gallant service to this Nation and thank you for the sacrifices you have made, losing your father at such a young age.

Fred was born on April 3, 1924, to Charlie and Annie De Roche in Browning, MT.

He grew up with many siblings, raising cows and horses on his family's ranch on the Blackfeet reservation.

He eventually met his wife, Mildred Underbear, and soon after getting married, the couple discovered they were pregnant.

As many of you know, Native Americans have always exhibited a deep and profound love of country, enlisting in the military at higher rates than any other ethnic group.

Fred was no different. In fact, Fred had enlisted in the Army earlier that year, alongside his cousin, Billy Wolfetail.

In the ultimate act of patriotism, Fred deployed before his son, Art, was born on February 11, 1943.

Fred was sent to Belgium, where he served as a private in the Headquarters Company's 39th Infantry Regiment, 9th Infantry Division.

It was there that Fred earned his Bronze Star Medal on October 15, 1944, for meritorious achievement in active ground combat.

A little more than 2 months later, on December 21, 1944, Fred fought his last battle in courageous service to this great Nation.

He was awarded a Purple Heart for his valor and bravery.

On Memorial Day 2015, the Blackfeet Nation was honored at the Montana Veterans Memorial in Great Falls.

I was proud to be the main speaker at that event, where 162 tiles were added to the walls of the memorial, in recognition of military veterans from the Blackfeet Nation. Mr. Fred DeRoche was one of the names added that day.

Fred died in battle, but his spirit and legacy live on in his son, Art, who I have the distinct pleasure of being here with today.

Art was raised by his great-grandmother, Rosie Big Beaver, on the Blackfeet reservation.

He grew up in Browning, married his wife, Shirley, and together, they raised three beautiful children here: Arthur, Jr., David James, and Jolene Anne.

Thank you all for being here to celebrate Fred's life and legacy of service to our State, the Blackfeet people, and this great Nation.

I have the profound honor of presenting Fred's son, Art De Roche, with his father's medals: Bronze Star; Purple Heart; European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with one Bronze Service Star; World War II Victory Medal; Combat Infantryman Badge; Belgian Fourragere; and Honorable Service Lapel Button WWII

Art, these medals serve as a small token of our country's appreciation for your father's heroic service and profound sacrifice.

He is truly an American hero, and we are eternally grateful for his service.

RECOGNIZING THE POLYNESIAN VOYAGING SOCIETY AND THE MALAMA HONU WORLDWIDE VOYAGE

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, Hawaii's traditional Polynesian voyaging canoe Hokulea and her crew are in the Washington, DC, area this week as part of its Malama Honua Worldwide Voyage. I would like to congratulate and honor the Polynesian Voyaging Society for its work in bringing about this significant endeavor to raise awareness of global sustainability while sharing traditional Polynesian navigation practices and creating global relationships through cultural exchanges. Hokulea will voyage over 60,000 miles to 100 ports in 27 nations, including 12 Marine World Heritage sites identified by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization.

Established in 1973, the Polynesian Voyaging Society developed a new generation of Polynesian navigators, perpetuating the teachings of Master Navigator Mau Piailug from the island of Satawal in the Federated States of Micronesia. The Polynesian Voyaging Society is largely credited with revolutionizing the perception of Polynesian-style voyaging as a sophisticated form of sailing and navigation.

In 1976, the Polynesian Voyaging Society completed construction of the double-hulled voyaging canoe named Hokulea, which translates to "star of

gladness." Hokulea is the first traditional voyaging canoe to be built in Hawaii in over 600 years and has since served as a cultural ambassador of Hawaii to the world.

Crew members observed patterns in the stars, sun, moon, wind, and ocean swells to guide Hokulea to Tahiti on her inaugural journey. The voyage demonstrated that Polynesian wayfinding methods could successfully be used to travel on long-distance journeys and revived a navigational method many assumed was lost.

In 2013, Hokulea and her sister canoe Hikianalia embarked on a journey around the State of Hawaii before commencing a 36-month worldwide voyage named Malama Honua, which means "to care for our Earth."

Since the journey began, Hokulea has visited 24 islands and six countries across Polynesia, Mauritius, South Africa, Brazil, and the East Coast of the United States, visiting States Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, New York, and Washington, DC.

I extend my deepest congratulations to the Polynesian Voyaging Society and the crews of Hokulea and Hikianalia and wish them smooth sailing as they continue the Malama Honua Worldwide Voyage.

I look forward to hearing of their many adventures upon completion of the voyage, and I encourage all of my colleagues to visit Hokulea while she is docked in Washington, DC.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL PAUL J. TAYLOR

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to COL Paul J. Taylor for his inspiring and honorable dedication to the U.S. Army and service to our Nation. Paul spent a year on Capitol Hill as an Army Congressional Fellow in the U.S. Senate where he learned valuable skills that prepared him for his service the last 3 years as a Congressional Budget Liaison for the Secretary of the Army. In this capacity, I have found Paul to be a critical resource and trusted confidant on all matters related to supporting our Army.

Colonel Taylor was nominated to attend the U.S. Military Academy from his home State of Connecticut and was commissioned an armor officer in 1993.

Colonel Taylor has served in a broad range of armor and cavalry assignments during his 23 years of service. As a junior officer, he served as a tank platoon leader, executive officer, and battalion maintenance officer in the 1st Infantry Division at Fort Riley, in my own State of Kansas. During his time with the Big Red One, he met the former Amy S. Boydston, from Centerville, KS. The two were married at Fort Riley and have experienced more than 20 years of Army life together, along with their three daughters: Lauren, Abigail, and Ella Kate.

Following his time at Fort Riley, Colonel Taylor attended advanced

training at Fort Knox, KY, and stayed to command two armor companies in the 1st Armored Training Brigade. Upon completion of command, Colonel Taylor was stationed in Doha, Qatar, as the operations officer responsible for one of the Army's forward positioned headquarters in the Middle East.

After returning from Qatar, Colonel Taylor was assigned to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, CA, the Army's premier training center, where he helped train units for deployment for 4 years. Colonel Taylor was next assigned to Fort Hood, TX, where he served as a brigade and battalion operations officer and executive officer in 4th Infantry Division, including a deployment to Operation Iraqi Freedom in Iraq.

Following his assignment at Fort Hood, Colonel Taylor was selected through a highly competitive process to serve as an Army Congressional Fellow on the personal staff of my colleague Senator JOHN CORNYN of Texas. Following his fellowship, he was assigned to the Army's Office of the Chief of Legislative Liaison, where he served for 2 years as the Army's primary liaison for personnel issues to the U.S. Congress and the Armed Services Committees.

During this assignment, Colonel Taylor was selected for command of 1st Squadron, 32d Cavalry, in the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, KY. Following command, he returned to the Pentagon, where he served for 3 years as a congressional budget liaison officer in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Financial Management and Comptroller. He expertly managed the Army's procurement and research, development, test, and evaluation portfolios, liaising with the House and Senate Appropriations Committees to provide critical resources for Army warfighters. His most recent assignment was the office's senior budget liaison, providing day-to-day leadership to 15 other budget liaisons who greatly benefited from his guidance and mentorship.

Over the last several years, Colonel Taylor has developed a close working relationship with my office. As much as his Kansas ties mean to me and my staff, equally valued is Paul's strength of character and humble approach in serving others. He represents the best in our Army, and he will always be welcome in my office and as part of our Kansas community. I wish Paul, his wife Amy, and his daughters Lauren, Abigail, and Ella Kate the very best as they transition from Army life and move home to Kansas.

On behalf of a grateful nation, I join my colleagues today in recognizing and commending COL Paul Taylor for more than 23 years of service to his country. Paul's leadership throughout his career has positively impacted his soldiers, peers, and superiors. We wish Paul, his wife Amy, and their children all the best as they continue their journey of service.