

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 HONUA 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.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

SAMSUNG SOLVE FOR TOMORROW
STEM EDUCATION COMPETITION

• Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate a group of eighth-grade students at Horizon Middle School in Aurora, CO. Recently I met with Simon-Peter Frimpong and Grayson Fast who participated in the Samsung Solve for Tomorrow STEM Education Competition. Grayson, Simon-Peter, and their classmates were among just five grand prize winners out of more than 4,000 contestants nationwide. This competition brings together schools from across the country to encourage the use of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, STEM, to solve complicated problems. As a national winner of this competition, Horizon Middle School will receive funds to purchase cutting-edge technology for their school.

To win this competition, the students at Horizon Middle School created a more comfortable and versatile prosthetic limb for a local veteran. Along with providing more comfortable everyday use, the students designed multiple attachments, including an attachment for a longboard, to allow him to participate in various activities. This project required enormous amounts of time and dedication, as well as an in-depth study of STEM disciplines. Along this journey, the students had the unending support of their teacher Melinda Possehl and the school's principal, Nichole Bell.

Congratulations again to the students of Horizon Middle School on your outstanding accomplishment. I look forward to what the future has in store for these tremendously bright students.●

ALWAYS FREE HONOR FLIGHT

• Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, with immense pride, I wish to recognize the 25 heroic veterans who have traveled to Washington from West Virginia on this year's Always Free Honor Flight this week. This truly moving event serves as a unique opportunity for us to honor and share our deepest gratitude for these individuals who have sacrificed so much in the service of our great Nation.

With one of our country's highest per capita rates of military servicemembers and veterans, West Virginia is undoubtedly one of our Nation's most patriotic States. Throughout the history of the Mountain State, our citizens have demonstrated the bravery and selflessness time and again in making tremendous sacrifices to keep our homeland safe and free. According to the Department of Defense, West Virginia had the highest casualty rate in the Nation during the Vietnam war, and I am so proud that the honor flight will allow these West Virginia veterans to pay homage to their brethren at the Vietnam wall. As these vet-

erans tour the monuments that have been constructed in their honor, I offer my sincerest thanks to them on behalf of our Nation for their service.

The veterans joining us in Washington hail from across West Virginia, from Scott Depot and Princeton to Rainelle and Lewisburg. They have served in World War II, the Korean war, the Vietnam war, during the Cold War prior to the Berlin Wall's collapse, and the wars in the Middle East. They have participated in decisive overseas battles and won myriad accolades for their accomplishments in uniform.

First and foremost, I wish to remember PO3 Earnest McKenzie, an Athens, WV, native, who joined the U.S. Navy in 1955 and served on the USS *Brownson* in the Vietnam war. He was supposed to attend this week's honor flight to visit the memorials made in his honor, but he sadly passed away on Friday at the age of 75. My thoughts and prayers are with his family during this sad time, and I sincerely thank him for his service and sacrifice.

I especially wish to recognize our World War II veterans who will be on this honor flight. Ninety-four year old former SN William "Ray" Calvin Sexton from Tazewell, joined the Navy in Bramwell, WV, in 1943 and was a gunner stationed in Panama and the Galapagos Islands. We will also be joined by Machinist Mate Third Class Marion Grey Noel, who joined the Navy in the 1940s and bravely fought at the battle of Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

These men truly represent the sacrifices made by our Nation's "greatest generation" and embody American patriotism and valor. They fearlessly fought in such a pivotal war in an era that threatened our existence as a nation. We are losing so many of our World War II veterans every day, and the time to show our utmost gratitude to them is here and now.

I also wish to highlight the tremendous achievements of two Vietnam war veterans who will be on this honor flight. Mabscott, WV, native, former SPC Raymond C. Palmer joined the Army in 1967 and fought in the 1968 Tet Offensive when the Vietcong and North Vietnamese forces launched a series of attacks on scores of towns and cities through South Vietnam. Another Vietnam veteran participating in this week's honor flight is SSG Michael A. Hudnall of Rainelle, WV, who joined the Army in 1969. Staff Sergeant Hudnall served in the 1st Air Cavalry stationed in Bien Hoa and earned two Purple Hearts, two Bronze Stars, and two Air Medals. Their dedication to our Nation knows no bounds, and I thank them for their service.

I also wish to recognize Army SFC Paul W. Dorsey of Bluefield, WV, who joined the Army in 1978. Sergeant First Class Dorsey served the United States for 10 years in Germany, more than 3 of which he was stationed in Berlin prior to the Wall's collapse. Following his return home, Sergeant First Class Dorsey went on to serve an additional dec-

ade stateside and continues to give back to his community. He is a JROTC instructor at Montcalm High School in Mercer City and serves as vice president of the Always Free Honor Flight network. Thank you, Sergeant First Class Dorsey, for your lifelong commitment to the U.S. military and our veterans.

The veterans participating in this week's honor flight range in age from 54 to 94 and have fought for our freedom in many historic events. This week, as we celebrate these incredible veterans and their answering our Nation's call of duty, we must remember that the men and women who have given so much to ensure America's safety deserve the utmost care and support upon their return home.

We must continue to fight for a Department of Veterans Affairs that provides our veterans with the services they very much need and deserve.

This week's honor flight and the continued support of our veterans would not be possible without the dedication of so many volunteers and caregivers. I wish to thank the JROTC cadets from Princeton, Montcalm, Bluefield, and Pikeview high schools, as well as the military spouses serving as the guardians on this year's honor flight. The care and love you provide for our veterans is invaluable and deeply appreciated.

I also commend those in the Always Free Honor Flight network for their dedication to providing our veterans with such a unique and meaningful experience. My gratitude especially goes out to Dreama Denver, president of Always Free Honor Flight network and owner Little Buddy Radio of Princeton, WV, as well as Pam Coulbourne, the coordinator of these flights. Dreama and Pam launched the Always Free Honor Flight in 2012 and have been making the dreams of West Virginia's veterans a reality every year since. They, along with Sergeant First Class Dorsey and board member and official photographer Steve Coleman, have done a tremendous job of ensuring that our veterans receive the recognition they deserve. Dreama, Pam, and Steve have also dedicated themselves to the Denver Foundation, serving as incredible examples of how individuals can give back to their communities.

Our Nation would not enjoy the freedom and liberty we do today without the commitment and sacrifice of the veterans who have served throughout our history. Their bravery and sacrifice know no bounds, and for this, we are forever grateful. With this week's Always Free Honor Flight, we celebrate and give thanks for these veterans and all they have done for our country.

God bless our many servicemembers and veterans, the great State of West Virginia, and the United States of America.●

TRIBUTE TO TAD FELTS

• Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, in a rural State like my own, where many