

of the Year award and was ranked in the top 100 Outstanding School Administrators in North America by Executive Educator magazine. He was named Administrator of the Year by the Arkansas PTA in 1995, received the Phoebe Apperson Hearst Outstanding Educator award from the National PTA in 1999, and a year later was the recipient of the Dr. Dan Pilkington Award by the Arkansas School Boards Association. These accolades are all well deserved.

Dr. Gooden is actively engaged in the legislative process at the State and national levels on behalf of education. He has served as a member of the Executive Committee of the American Association of School Administrators and served as the organization's president from 2012–2103. Dr. Gooden has served his community, State, and Nation in a remarkable way in pursuit of better education opportunities for Arkansas students.

He has been a resource for me over the years to keep up with the needs and challenges of our education system. Whether pursuing opportunities for students of diverse backgrounds, cheering the accomplishments of adult education graduates, or paving the way for advanced technology in the classroom, Dr. Gooden's dedication to the young people of Fort Smith has made a positive impact on the community. Because of this, Fort Smith will continue to benefit from Dr. Gooden's work long after his retirement.

I congratulate Dr. Gooden for his outstanding achievements in his career and thank him for his dedication to education, students and the community. I appreciate his friendship and enjoyed supporting his efforts to improve education. I wish him all the best in retirement and know that his wife Martha and the rest of his family will enjoy the opportunity to spend more time with him.●

#### TRIBUTE TO JIM ROWLAND

● Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Fort Smith School District athletics director Jim Rowland who will retire in June after serving the school district for over half a century. Rowland's dedication to education and athletics in Fort Smith is nearly unprecedented.

Jim Rowland has been involved in Fort Smith's school district since 1963. He began work at Darby Junior High School as the head coach for track and football. In 1966, Rowland became an assistant coach to the football team at Northside High School and, in 1970, was named head coach at crosstown rival, Southside High School.

After a successful coaching career, Coach Rowland moved to the administrative sector becoming assistant principal in 1982 at Southside High School. Nine years later, Coach Rowland assumed the role of athletics director for Fort Smith Public School District.

Under his watch, both Northside and Southside High School won a combined

six State championships in football—more than any other school district in the 7A classification.

During Rowland's time as athletics director, he oversaw an extensive growth in athletics. Under his leadership, both Northside and Southside High school won State championships in track, volleyball, bowling, and golf.

His passion helped improve athletics in Fort Smith to a level not seen before. In 2009, Fort Smith School Board, in a unanimous vote, renamed Southside High School's stadium, Jim Rowland Stadium as thank you for his services.

I congratulate Coach Rowland for his outstanding achievements in athletics and education. I thank him for his service to the Fort Smith School District and the countless students he impacted, including me. I was on the Darby Rangers football team in eighth grade when he started his coaching career in Fort Smith, and I was a member of the Northside Grizzlies when he became an assistant coach at the high school. Coach Rowland was a role model and one of the most positive influences in my life, as well as so many others.

His efforts to foster growth in the district and enhance athletics in Fort Smith have become reality. I greatly appreciate his commitment to the schools and athletic programs, his guidance and friendship, and I wish him continued success in all of his endeavors. Fort Smith is fortunate to have had someone with his passion and dedication to the schools.●

#### TRIBUTE TO FRANCES DOLEZAL

● Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, on January 9, 1915, the Dolezal family scurried around a humble homestead in Hingham, MT. The house had no heat, no plumbing, and no modern conveniences to combat the bitter Montana cold. Jerry and Grace Dolezal had just welcomed a brand-new baby girl—Frances. Her brother Bob Dolezal says, “My father used to say, she was so small, she could have worn a ring as a bracelet.” Frances was a premature breach birth, and the family took turns huddling around her crib, a small dresser drawer, refilling a hot water bottle each hour to keep the newborn warm. Frances would survive that night and many more. She celebrated her 101st birthday this last January.

I would like to take this time to recognize and honor her service to our country and her contribution to the children of Montana. We are the land of the free because of the brave, and as we continue to face foreign and domestic threats I am humbled by the service men and women who have protected and served. In 1942 the United States faced a shortage of military personnel due to World War II. In an effort to fill the void, the Women Accepted for Emergency Volunteer Service program, or WAVES, was created and allowed women to enlist in the U.S. Navy.

After her brother George Dolezal survived the attack on Pearl Harbor, Frances was anxious to do her part and graciously enlisted in July of 1943. She was stationed on Terminal Island in San Pedro, CA, for the next 2 years, serving as a second class aviation machinist mate, preparing airplanes before they were shipped overseas.

When the war ended, Frances returned to Montana and earned her bachelor's degree in education from the Western Montana College of Education, now University of Montana Western, in Dillon. Frances would go on to be a first grade teacher and serve the communities of Cutbank, Malta, Havre, Zortman, Ledger and Browning for over 25 years.

Frances was a tough teacher but fair. In Browning, where class attendance was low, Frances created an innovative cotton ball calendar tactic to motivate class participation. Her classes held the highest attendance rates and many of her schoolchildren would exit first grade with third grade reading levels. Her brother Bob says: “Her ability to motivate little ones was what I was always impressed with. She instilled in them to never quit; keep trying until you can succeed.”

On Frances' 100th birthday she was showered with letters, cards, and gifts from her former students. One student, now a successful businessman in Billings, MT, made it a priority to be in attendance for the celebration. The young man thanked Frances and said that, among all of his teachers and college professors, Mrs. Ordway was his favorite.

In an effort to ensure all female World War II veterans receive their World War II service medals, Frances was recently honored by the Montana American Legion in Chinook, MT. Frances was pinned with her World War II Victory Medal in honor of her service from 1943 to 1945.

It is stories like Frances's, the Dolezal family, and numerous others that remind us of the importance of preserving these stories through efforts like the Veterans History Project. Though many people may never know her name, Montanans and Americans owe her our appreciation. Thank you, Frances, for your patriotism and commitment to the education of young Montana minds.●

#### TRIBUTE TO CHRISTINA ARAGON

● Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I would like to call your attention to Christina Aragon, a recent graduate of Billings Senior High School. While in high school, Christina competed in track and field, gymnastics, was an active member of the National Honors Society and concert band, and was named the Gatorade Montana Track and Field athlete of the year in 2015. Christina is the youngest daughter of Chuck and Kathy Argon and is running her way into the record books.

Christina, known as Teeny by friends and family, is a remarkable track and

field athlete whose events include the 400m, 800m, 1500m, 1600m, and the 3,200m. Over the course of her high school career, Christina earned nine State champion titles; three of those titles were earned while running with a broken elbow.

On June 5, Christina attended the Payton Jordan Invitational at Stanford and completed the 1500m in 4:11.24. Competing in a packed race with multiple professionally sponsored runners, this 18-year-old surprised everyone in attendance. On June 12, at the Portland Track Festival, Christina defied expectations yet again and set a national record of 4:09.27, becoming the third fastest 1500m high schooler in history, while simultaneously qualifying for the Olympic time trials. This weekend, she will compete in the Brooks PR Invitational in Renton, WA, where she holds the record for the 800m at 2:04.00. Christina will also attend the Olympic time trials in Oregon on July 1, 2016.

Christina represents the youngest of the Aragon track and field legacy. Her father was the first Notre Dame runner to break the 4-minute mile in 1981. Her mother competed in her third Olympic time trial in 2004, and her older sisters, Danielle and Alexa, hold multiple State champion titles and run together as All-Americans at Notre Dame. Christina will attend Stanford University this fall and continue her track and field career.

When asked about the Olympic time trials, Christina commented, "I'm obviously going to be pretty nervous, but I'm just going to try to channel that nervousness into more excitement because that's just an awesome opportunity and I'm really lucky to be able to have that so I'm just going to go out there and have fun and run fast, hopefully."

William Shakespeare wrote, "Though she be but little, she is fierce," a quote that I feel resonates all too well with this determined and fearsome young lady. I ask that you join me in wishing Christina the best of luck in the coming weeks. I have no doubt that she will continue to make her family and Montana proud.●

#### TRIBUTE TO BRENDA KADRMAS

● Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize a Havre Police Department dispatcher, Brenda Kadrmass. Originally from Conrad, Brenda is a 10-year veteran to the department. She acted in a swift and steadfast manner during a terrifying situation and put her extensive training to work in order to prevent a suicide.

Brenda has taken full advantage of training opportunities—thankfully, she did; she was able to save a life. Thank you, Brenda, for your commitment to the department and the city of Havre. You have shown tremendous leadership and dedication, and for that, I am proud of you. Keep up the great work, and thank you for your service.●

#### TRIBUTE TO DAVE WICHMAN

● Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Dave Wichman, superintendent and assistant professor of agronomy at Montana State University. He has dedicated 35 years of his life working in the agricultural research centers for the State of Montana.

Dave has worked with Montana Agricultural Experiment Stations since 1976, serving at both the Southern Ag Research Center in Huntley and Central Ag Research Center in Moccasin, MT. Dave has impacted forage crops, pulse crops, oil seed crops, cereal agronomy, and foundation seed.

Dave, thank you for your passion, your knowledge, and your dedication. Montana thanks you for a job well done and wishes you the best.●

#### TRIBUTE TO DR. STEPHEN WELLS

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Dr. Stephen Wells for his service with the Desert Research Institute, or DRI, after being a significant team member for 16 years. It gives me great pleasure to recognize his years of hard work and commitment to making this institute the best it can be.

Dr. Wells earned his master's degree and doctorate in geology from the University of Cincinnati in Ohio. He later served as a professor of geomorphology and chair of the graduate program in the Department of Earth Sciences at the University of California, Riverside, jumpstarting his academic career. In 1976, he joined the University of New Mexico, serving as chair of the Department of Geology from 1989 to 1991. In both roles, Dr. Wells built internationally recognized research and graduate programs and enrolled 34 students into the programs.

Beginning in 1995, Dr. Wells began his lengthy tenure with the DRI as executive director of the Quaternary Sciences Center. Throughout the next 16 years, he worked diligently to climb the ladder and became president of DRI, one of the world's largest multidisciplinary environmental research organizations, located in our great State. The institute has 500 scientists, technologists, students, and other staff working to further develop nationally recognized research. Dr. Wells led the institute with three core divisions and four interdisciplinary science centers, which serve Nevada and regions across the globe with innovative research. Dr. Wells also helped to build the institute to a \$50 million per year operation, compared to the \$23.8 million in 1998. Residents across the State are fortunate to have had someone of such dedication working on behalf of the institute.

During his time in Nevada, he emerged as a true leader within our community. Dr. Wells served as a graduate faculty member in the hydrological sciences program and the

Department of Geological Sciences at the University of Nevada, Reno. He also served as a board member of the Economic Development Authority of Western Nevada and the Nevada Development Authority. In addition, he spearheaded various initiatives in unmanned aircraft systems technology, as well as helping position Nevada as a frontrunner in advanced technologies. I have worked with him personally on various Nevada priorities and am thankful to have had him as an ally in these initiatives.

Dr. Wells has received three national awards in recognition of his work: the Geological Society of America Kirk Bryan Award, the Gladys Cole Award, and the Geological Society of America Farouk El-Baz Award. These accolades are a tremendous honor, and without a doubt, Dr. Wells' work warrants this recognition.

I ask my colleagues and all Nevadans to join me in thanking Dr. Wells for his dedication to DRI throughout the past 16 years. He exemplifies the highest standards of leadership and service and should be proud of his meaningful career. I wish him well in all of his future endeavors and in his new role with the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology.●

#### TRIBUTE TO AMBER PARSONS

● Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Amber Parsons, an outstanding and accomplished young woman from Wheeling, WV.

Amber, a recent graduate of Wheeling Park High School, graduated in May with honors and with an outstanding 4.0 GPA. She has received numerous Presidential Award Scholarships because of her outstanding effort and hard work and also attended the Global Youth Leadership Conference last summer with individuals from more than 30 countries.

The Global Youth Leadership Summit is both an academic and professional opportunity for young men and women to not only enhance their academic abilities, but grow personally and professionally as well. The summit immerses students in various cultures and gives them the opportunity to interact with policy officials, lobbyists, journalists, and other industry leaders. It is a wonderful opportunity for young men and women to learn and grow on a professional and personal level.

Amber is the only individual ever from West Virginia to be selected to attend this prestigious conference. While being selected from 3,700 applicants is an accomplishment in itself, she was also selected to return again this year. Less than 10 percent of previous attendees are asked to return, and Amber was included in that small percentage.

Aside from her outstanding academic work, Amber also helped to establish