

Marion County recently held a celebration of its designation as a Purple Heart County that brought the community together to honor Purple Heart recipients. Showing our admiration for those who have served and sacrificed so much for our freedom is such a worthy endeavor, and this recognition is well-deserved.

On behalf of all Arkansans, I echo the sentiments of the citizens of Marion County in saying how grateful we are for our veterans and their willingness to serve their country. There truly is no greater display of service and sacrifice than that.

I would like to take this opportunity to applaud Marion County for publicly recognizing our veterans and Purple Heart recipients by becoming a Purple Heart County. Arkansas is proud that our local communities are paying respect to our veterans and standing behind them.●

TRIBUTE TO KEN GORMLEY

● Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the 13th president of Duquesne University, Ken Gormley, a renowned lawyer, scholar, teacher, and author. A native western Pennsylvanian, Ken has dedicated his life to public service and education. He was sworn in as president of Duquesne University on July 1, 2016, after serving as interim dean and dean of Duquesne's School of Law from 2008 until 2015. The inauguration of Duquesne University's 13th dean, and just its third lay dean, highlights the impact this 138-year-old institution has made on the city of Pittsburgh and its students, displaying a constant and deep commitment to Spiritan values and academic rigor. Founded in 1878 by the Congregation of the Holy Spirit to educate the children of immigrant steel mill workers, Duquesne now enrolls nearly 10,000 students from throughout the country and the world.

Ken first began his tenure at Duquesne in 1994 after a career in private practice and teaching at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, where he founded a successful legal writing program for minority students and women returning to professional school after raising their children. Under his leadership as dean of Duquesne's School of Law, the institution ascended to the top tier of law schools and has become nationally ranked. Ken's commitment to public service is deeply rooted in western Pennsylvania. From 1998–2001, he served as mayor of Forest Hills, PA, where he helped to establish a community development corporation to focus on the borough's business corridor. He has also served as the president of the Allegheny County Bar Association, where he helped establish the Gender Equality Institute to work to advance women in the legal profession.

Ken Gormley earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Pittsburgh and his J.D. from Harvard Law

School. He quickly earned a reputation as a leading constitutional scholar, writing for such esteemed publications as the Stanford Law Review, the Rutgers Law Journal, the Pennsylvania Lawyer, and Politico. He is an expert on the U.S. Supreme Court and has testified before the Pennsylvania Senate Judiciary Committee and here in the U.S. Senate. Ken is also an accomplished author, having penned the biography of Archibald Cox, one of the great constitutional lawyers of the 20th century, for whom he served as a teaching assistant at Harvard. The book was awarded the 1999 Bruce K. Gould Book Award for outstanding publication relating to the law and was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize. Ken's most recent book, "The Presidents and the Constitution: A Living History," draws upon the Nation's top experts on the American Presidency and the U.S. Constitution to tell the incredibly important story of how each President has confronted and shaped the Constitution.

I am proud to rise today to honor Dean Ken Gormley and to recognize his wife, Laura, and their children Carolyn, Luke, Rebecca, and Madeleine. I thank Ken for his decades of service to Pennsylvania and this Nation and wish him luck for his significant work to come on behalf of Duquesne University.●

TRIBUTE TO MINNESOTA POLICE OFFICERS

● Mr. FRANKEN. Mr. President, today I would like to recognize three outstanding Minnesota police officers. The Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association, the largest association representing Minnesota's rank-and-file police officers, met earlier this year for their annual conference and named Officer Sayareth Toy Vixayvong of the St. Paul Police Department "Police Officer of the Year" and gave "Honorable Mention Awards" to Officer Tony Holter of the St. Paul Police Department and Detective Bryan Bye of the Burnsville Police Department.

Officer Vixayvong is a 15-year veteran of the St. Paul Police Department and, until recently, was assigned to the FBI Safe Streets Task Force, where he worked tirelessly to make St. Paul a safer place to live and work. Officer Vixayvong has spent his career fighting drug trafficking and has put numerous high-profile criminals behind bars and worked to prevent others from becoming involved in the illegal drug trade. Working undercover with the task force, he put his life on the line repeatedly to protect and serve his community of St. Paul.

St. Paul Police Officer Tony Holter is a dedicated member of the St. Paul Police Department. He has served for 15 years and is currently the senior investigator in the Ramsey County Violent Crime Enforcement Team. Throughout the past year, Officer Holter has served as the primary undercover officer in a

number of narcotic investigations focusing on members of international drug cartels and other dangerous drug dealers and gang members.

Since 2002, Burnsville Detective Bryan Bye has loyally served his community as a member of the Burnsville Police Department. His work with Burnsville's Emergency Action Group tactical team has earned him five distinguished service awards for his tactical response. In 2015, the Burnsville Police Department named Detective Bye "Police Officer of the Year."

I join with the Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association and all of my fellow Minnesotans in applauding these three distinguished public servants. I would also like to thank not only these three individuals, but all of Minnesota's brave law enforcement officers who work tirelessly to keep our communities safe from harm. They put their lives on the line to protect our safety and that of our families every day.●

HONOR FLIGHT NORTHERN COLORADO'S 16TH FLIGHT TO DC

● Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the veterans of Honor Flight Northern Colorado and the organization's 16th trip to Washington, DC. This group includes veterans from various wars and generations, who are all joined together by their service to our country.

In 2008, Honor Flight Northern Colorado was created as a local chapter of the National Honor Flight Network. The organization flies World War II veterans to Washington, DC, to allow these veterans the opportunity to see the national memorial built in their honor.

Honor Flight Northern Colorado now welcomes veterans of any war the chance to fly to Washington, DC, free of charge, to visit the memorials of the wars in which they fought.

Currently, there are more than 21.8 million veterans living in the United States. No matter the conflict, these veterans made exceptional sacrifices in order to serve and defend our country, and we owe them a debt of gratitude.

Of the 123 veterans on the most recent honor flight, 23 served in World War II, 53 served in Korea, 47 served in Vietnam, and 1 served in Iraq.

Please join me in honoring Robert Armstrong, Leonard Branecki, Richard Ciesielski, Lawrence Colby, John Davis, Melvin Engeman, Irene Hunter, Walter Hunter, Malachi Kenney, William Klun, Donald Kreutzer, Alfred Martin, Joseph Moren, Thomas Paterson, Stanley Raddatz, Raymond Rader, Gerald Ravenscroft, Harold Stoll, Douglas Stratton, Henry Tagtmeyer, Sidney Waldrop, Peter Zarlengo, Donald Ziemer, Louis Balogh, Donald Begalle, Robert Braden, Walter Brown, William Budd, Robert Burgess, Gerald Clinton, Thomas Dixon, Edward Dreher, Jim Ferguson, William Gaede, Ronald

Henderer, Clarence Hill, Wallace Horihan, Clifford Hughes, Dale Johnke, Gordon Kilgore, John Knapp, Arthur Kompolt, James Lambert, James Leavell, Clint Lincoln, Joseph Lutz, Elvin McIntosh, Elmer McLane, Jack Middleton, Leonard Muniz, John Obourn, Bill Overmyer, James Parker, Wallace Pond, Douglas Quigley, Leroy Rady, Lloyd Rausch, Katherine Ravithis, Eugene Reller, Morris Rider, Arthur Schildgen, Darvin Schoemaker, Yersel Scott, Donald Sewald, Robert Smith, Carl Sorensen, Elvin Spreng, Carol Stickler, James Thomason, Albert Tighe, Harvey Tomky, Robert Wagner, Albert Weber, Robert White, Duane Wilsey, Norbert Wilson, Jay Adams, Myron Adams, Darrell Armstrong, James Becker, Gordon Benton, Elden Billington, Jeff Birdwell, Roger Bollenbacher, Jerral Brasher, Gary Curry, Danny DeJacomio, Jon Erickson, Carl Erikson, Vernon Fresquez, Ronald Fritzler, Kenneth Gillpatrick, Jr., Larry Hull, Frederick Harlow, Marion Herman, Richard Herrera, Dale Hicks, Wilbur Hosman, William Howes, Jerry Iossi, Jerry Kennedy, Gerald King, Leonard Kippes, Philip Lucas, Robert Martinez, Michael Miller, David Moore, John Pickett II, Raul Saenz, Richard Schauermaun, James Schlote, John Heitman. Kenneth Seifert, Francis Skolnick, Leonard Sokoloski, Kenneth Spooner, Larry Spooner, Dean Taylor, John Trierweiler, Jimmy Wiles, Michael Wilkinson, Wallace Young, and Steven Larsen.●

RECOGNIZING KINGFIELD, MAINE

● Mr. KING. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the town of Kingfield, ME, which has recently been designated by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy as an Appalachian Trail Community. This will provide better economic development opportunity for Kingfield and contribute to its cherished position in Maine and along the Appalachian Trail. I am pleased to congratulate Kingfield on this well-deserved designation, which also coincides with the community's bicentennial celebration on September 10.

Kingfield's roots go back to 1807, when William King, later to be Maine's first Governor purchased land in the relatively uncharted Carrabassett River Valley. Over the next 10 years, the humble settlement grew into a vibrant industrial town, including several mills and factories. Through the early 20th century, Kingfield became an anchor town in the western foothills and has maintained its sterling reputation as a small, but strong, tight-knit community to this day.

Today Kingfield is known for its picturesque scenery and the plethora of outdoor recreation opportunities it provides. The recreation industry has brought revitalization to the western foothills of Maine, and Kingfield stands at the forefront of that effort. Nearby Sugarloaf Mountain is one of the most

popular skiing destinations on the East Coast, attracting hundreds of thousands of visitors to the area every year. During the rest of the year, Kingfield is a haven for fishing, hunting, and wildlife watching, as well as a popular stop along the Appalachian Trail.

The Appalachian Trail has brought tens of thousands of people through western Maine, and many have stopped in Kingfield for respite from the challenging terrain. Through the official designation of Kingfield as an Appalachian Trail Community, visitors will now have access to the best resources to help them complete their journey, and residents can benefit from the engagement with trail visitors and trail stewards that this designation allows. The town will be able to gain a fuller partnership with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, while implementing environmentally and culturally sustainable practices. This is the dawn of a new era in the partnership between the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and the town of Kingfield and is sure to have a lasting and meaningful impact for years to come.

I commend all that the people of Kingfield have done to make their town such a special place to live and experience nature. Their shared love for their hometown has made them one of Maine's great communities, and I am confident that this designation as an Appalachian Trail Community will further the town's reputation. I thank the ATC for their recognition of Kingfield's important role in supporting hikers along the trail. I am proud to recognize this historic milestone, and I wish the town many more years of success.●

RECOGNIZING FRANKLIN PRIMARY HEALTH CENTER

● Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Franklin Primary Health Center, Inc. Franklin Primary Health Center is a nonprofit, federally qualified health center founded in 1975 by Dr. Marilyn Aiello and a group of Alabamians who recognized the need for quality health care in the underserved counties of southwest Alabama.

Franklin Primary Health Center is named after Dr. James Alexander Franklin, a physician, scholar, and humanitarian who faithfully served his community for over 60 years. The small nonprofit community health center was founded in 1975 to care for the underserved Davis Avenue community, and in the early days, a small staff struggled to see as many patients as possible.

Since 1982, the health center has been led by CEO Charles White. Mr. White is a well-known and respected member of the southwest Alabama community, and the health center has thrived and grown under his years of leadership. The health center now consists of 21 locations in six counties in Alabama, including Mobile, Baldwin, Choctaw, Escambia, Monroe, and Conecuh. It is

the first community health center in Alabama to become accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, JCAHO.

I recently had the opportunity to attend the grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony for Franklin's newest branch, the Hadley Family Medical Center in Mobile. I remain impressed with and proud of Franklin's impact and outreach in southwest Alabama. Because of Franklin Primary Health Center, underserved residents of this area of the State can access quality care in their own communities.

Franklin Health Center provides a wide array of services such as pediatrics, OB/GYN, family medicine, internal medicine, geriatrics, rheumatology, dentistry, optometry, physical therapy, nutrition services, wellness and fitness, social services, substance abuse prevention and treatment, HIV/AIDS services, health education, pharmacy, laboratory, x-ray, and transportation services for the homeless.

The health center's total staff of over 200 employees serves nearly 40,000 patients annually. These employees focus on the center's values of dedication, integrity, respect, excellence, creativity, and teamwork in fulfilling its mission.

I would like to extend my sincerest appreciation to Franklin Primary Health Center for its 41 years of excellence in care and service to the community and to celebrated their continued expansion.●

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH BAKA

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Joseph Baka, an intern in my Washington, DC, office for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Joseph is a graduate of Northwestern University in Evanston, IL, having earned a degree in Middle East and North African studies and statistics. Joseph is a dedicated worker who has been committed to getting the most out of his experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Joseph Baka for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO DANIEL DUFFY

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Daniel Duffy, an intern in my Washington, DC, office for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Daniel is a graduate of St. Thomas More High School in Rapid City, SD. Currently, Daniel is attending Stanford University, where he is majoring in economics. Daniel is a dedicated worker who has been committed to getting the most out of his experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Daniel Duffy for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●