

legacy Immigration and Naturalization Service in El Centro, CA. He also worked as an Assistant Attorney General and Assistant Public Defender for the Government of American Samoa. Judge Bennett was appointed as an immigration judge in El Centro, CA, in 1989.

In Oregon, we were fortunate to have Judge Bennett assigned to our immigration court in 1998. During his tenure, Judge Bennett has served as an impartial adjudicator who is known for his fair and compassionate decisions. He has gained the respect of his colleagues, fellow attorneys, and the public for his intricate knowledge of immigration law. Further, Judge Bennett has created a positive work environment in the Portland immigration court that is commendable and should be recognized.

Judge Bennett comes from a long line of public servants, including his grandparents and parents. His grandfather served in the U.S. Navy and fought in WWII. Judge Bennett's father also served in the U.S. Navy and eventually earned his Ph.D. and became a teacher. Judge Bennett and his wife, Sivai, have continued to dedicate themselves to making Oregon a better place through their public service.

It is an honor to recognize Judge Michael H. Bennett for his service to the United States, to Oregon, and to his community.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MAINE DENTAL ASSOCIATION

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, the Maine Dental Association was incorporated in 1867 with 22 members. Today I wish to recognize the MDA and its more than 700 members for 150 years of dedication to their profession and to the people of our State.

The remarkable advancements in dentistry over the years were accompanied by a greater understanding of the link between oral health and overall health. As doctors who specialize in oral medicine, the dentists of the MDA are a central part of Maine's healthcare sector. Expanding access to healthcare, including oral healthcare, is among the most important issues facing our society. Maine is a large, rural State with a strong network of dental clinics supported by MDA members. In addition, the MDA sponsors the Donated Dental Services Program that provides free comprehensive care to our disabled, aged, and medically compromised citizens in need.

Access to oral healthcare in Maine took a major step forward on May 20, 2017, when the University of New England College of Dental Medicine held a commencement ceremony for its first graduating class. The MDA has been a strong supporter of this first dental college in northern New England since the college was founded in 2013, and many of the 62 graduates who earned doctor of dental medicine degrees performed clinical rotations in commu-

nities throughout the State under the guidance of MDA members. I visited the Portland UNE clinic and was delighted to learn of the plans of many students to practice in Maine where their services are very much needed. From preventing and treating oral health problems to educating parents and caregivers, MDA members also play an essential role in the health, safety, and well-being of Maine children.

Throughout our State, members of the Maine Dental Association provide vital healthcare with expertise, commitment, and compassion. It is a pleasure to congratulate the MDA for 150 years of accomplishments and contributions benefiting the people of Maine.

175TH ANNIVERSARY OF CASE IH AGRICULTURE AND FARM EQUIPMENT

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, today I wish to celebrate the 175th anniversary of Case IH Agriculture and Farm Equipment and to recognize its outstanding commitment and contribution to Wisconsin's economy.

Mr. Jerome Increase Case, born in 1819 in western New York, was well acquainted with agricultural equipment even as a young man. Case provided threshing services to local farms and realized at the young age of 16 that farming techniques needed improvement after witnessing a demonstration of an early threshing machine that could thresh more in one hour than a man could all day. After settling in Wisconsin in the early 1840s, Case built his first thresher-separator in Rochester, WI, but when the town refused to let Case draw electricity from the local mill, Case loaded his invention into a wagon and headed to Racine, WI.

The J.I. Case Threshing Machine Company was founded in 1842 at a time when Racine's tallest building was the local grain elevator. By 1848, the company was Racine's largest employer. As a true pioneer in the field of agricultural equipment, J.I. Case manufactured the first steam engine tractor in 1869. The Old No. 1 is still on display at the Smithsonian Institution. Although it was mounted on wheels, it was still drawn by horses. The first self-propelled steam engine followed in 1876.

Case machines were first transported beyond U.S. borders in 1871 and won first prize at the Paris Exposition. By 1886, Case became the largest producer of steam engines in the world.

During World War II, the company's plants manufactured aircraft wings, aircraft towing tractors, artillery shells, and doors for the Sherman tank. In fact, the company's 1942 centennial was celebrated 7 years late because of the war.

In 1985, Case IH became the Nation's second-largest farm equipment manufacturer after J.I. Case purchased the agricultural division of International Harvester and the business legacies of

two major equipment companies were united under one company. In 1999, Case IH merged with New Holland Ag to form a parent company, CNH Global, although equipment was still produced under the Case IH name. Since the merger, Case has remained at the forefront of the farming industry, seeking new ways to adapt to the changing trends. In 2010, Case IH created the world's first tractor to meet the tier 4 emissions requirements of the Environmental Protection Agency. Case IH Agriculture and Farm Equipment currently works with more than 4,900 dealers and distributes products in more than 160 countries.

As one of Wisconsin's founding manufacturers, Case has been a major contributor to Wisconsin's farming legacy. Over the past 175 years, this proud company has provided jobs for countless Wisconsin families and economic growth for the State I am so proud to represent.

I offer my sincere congratulations to Case leadership and workers as they celebrate 175 years of business, and I wish them the very best for many more years of success in Racine and around the world.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO HARRY SIMMONS, JR.

• Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I am pleased to commend Harry Simmons, Jr., of Yazoo City, MS, for his service and contributions to the State of Mississippi while serving as the 81st president of the Delta Council.

Since its founding in 1935, Delta Council has grown to be a widely respected economic development organization representing the business, professional, and agricultural interests of the Mississippi Delta region. I am grateful to Delta Council for its continuous role in meeting the economic and quality of life challenges in this unique part of our country.

Harry Simmons's tenure as council president began in May 2016. In leading the council, he has been a notably strong advocate for Federal flood control, farm support, and infrastructure improvements in the Delta region.

A Yazoo County native, Mr. Simmons graduated from Yazoo City High School and earned an agricultural economics degree from Mississippi State University. He has had a strong career as a catfish and row-crop producer. Mr. Simmons, with his daughter Katy and son-in-law Andy Prosser, jointly manage both his farm operation and highly successful catfish processing operation, Simmons Farm Raised Catfish. His processing facility employs more than 200 people in Yazoo County, and his farming operation consists of catfish, corn, soybeans, and cotton production.

In addition to his leadership in Delta Council, Mr. Simmons has served as chairman of the Catfish Institute, president of Catfish Farmers of America, and on the boards of both the

Yazoo Planters Cotton Gin and Yazoo County Development Foundations. He also served our State and Nation as a commissioned officer in the Mississippi National Guard.

I am pleased to join the people throughout my State in commending Harry Simmons, Jr., and sharing our appreciation with his wife, Shirley, and their children, Emily and Katy, and grandson, Miller, as the 82nd annual meeting of the Delta Council membership convenes in June.●

RECONIZING JEROME D. MACK MIDDLE SCHOOL

• Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, today I am honored to congratulate the Jerome D. Mack Middle School, in Las Vegas, NV, for earning the School Innovation and Change Award, SICA. On June 1, 2017, a representative of the National Principals Leadership Institute will join with Mack Middle School to recognize this achievement formally to a gathering of 700 parents, students, and teachers.

This award recognizes Mack Middle School's principals, teachers, staff, and students for their efforts to embrace new and innovative strategies for educational improvement. To win this award, Mack Middle School submitted a competitive application to the National Principal Leadership Institute that included a school profile, a school changes story, documents supporting those changes, a reflection of innovation, a sustainability plan for how a \$10,000 award would be used, and a description of community building.

Earning this award is no easy feat. In its improvement efforts, Mack Middle School has seen many upgrades in technology and pedagogy that mark demonstrable change. Every student now receives a laptop computer, and all assignments are completed on a virtual classroom portal. Students are taught to critically self-assess their own abilities and have learned to improve their skills to new levels of mastery. Their principal is a nationally board certified teacher and a nationally accredited principal mentor. Ten of their teachers attend national board certification classes, and approximately 390 of their students will earn high school credits this year. All this to say Mack Middle School is more than deserving of this award.

Moreover, these changes have positively affected the campus dynamic as teachers are excited about their work and students take charge of their education plans. More community center than a school, Mack Middle School has become a hub where parents and students alike partake in use of the school's athletic fields and even the school's Wi-Fi signal. In an area that is too often marred by high crime and poverty, the school stands as a beacon of what is possible when teachers are engaged in their community and where parents take an active role in their students' lives. Mack Middle School is

an inspiration for East Las Vegas and the greater Nevada community.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Jerome D. Mack Middle School for their hard work, innovative approaches to education, and their efforts to improve educational outcomes for students in East Las Vegas.●

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM "BILL" AUSMUS

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week, I have the distinct honor of recognizing William "Bill" Ausmus of Hardin, a World War II Army veteran who celebrated his 100th birthday earlier this month. Bill has been involved with a variety of community organizations in Big Horn County for many years, helping countless Montanans along the way. His accomplishments are something we can all celebrate.

After his World War II military service concluded, Bill spent almost seven decades serving in his local American Legion Post 8 and remained in an active capacity with the post into his nineties. His professional vocation was serving as the Big Horn County surveyor and, for a time, the assessor. These vital positions afforded him the opportunity to interact with and provide useful help to many in his local community. Bill developed a reputation for accuracy and customer service in his professional work. He was also integral in the formation of his local Methodist Church and is known for his volunteerism and generous donations to community projects and causes.

The longevity of his many endeavors and willingness to help others along the way serves as an inspiration to us all. When looking back through the history of Big Horn County during the past century, it is clear that Bill has been key contributor. Congratulations, Bill, on your recent 100th birthday, and thank you for your service.●

TRIBUTE TO CLAIRE ALISON

• Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Claire Alison, an intern in my Washington, DC, office for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Claire is a graduate of El Camino Real Charter High School in Los Angeles, CA. Currently, she is attending California State University, Northridge, where she is majoring in history. Claire is a dedicated worker who has been committed to getting the most out of her experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Claire Alison for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH SCHARTZ

• Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Joseph Schartz, 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 South Dakota State University in Brookings, SD, having earned a degree in journalism. Currently, he is attending the Georgetown University McCourt School of Public Policy, where he is pursuing his master's in public policy. 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 Schartz for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Ridgway, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and a withdrawal which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:34 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 467. An act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to ensure that each medical facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs complies with requirements relating to scheduling veterans for health care appointments, to improve the uniform application of directives of the Department, and for other purposes.

H.R. 624. An act to restrict the inclusion of social security account numbers on Federal documents sent by mail, and for other purposes.

H.R. 953. An act to amend the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to clarify Congressional intent regarding the regulation of the use of pesticides in or near navigable waters, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1293. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to require that the Office of Personnel Management submit an annual report to Congress relating to the use of official time by Federal employees.

H.R. 2052. An act to amend the Uniform Code of Military Justice to prohibit the wrongful broadcast or distribution of intimate visual images.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, without amendment:

S. Con. Res. 14. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for an event to celebrate the birthday of King Kamehameha I.