

places like North Korea, Iran, and so many other countries not just in a national security capacity alone, but about the people who are suffering under political systems that deny their fundamental right to freely worship as they choose.

The rabbi's lesson of Hosea chapter 6 that day was about a passage where strength, courage, and hope by the great Hand above were poured into those who were lonesome, afraid, and discouraged. At the end of my dad's letter, he asked my grandfather, "Please, dad, put the benediction of the rabbi over your desk for that is the quickest way you can bring me home." If so, by keeping international religious freedom as a foreign policy priority, I believe that is the quickest way we can bring persecuted people hope.

As my father did in his letter, I close by repeating the rabbi's benediction: "He that enjoys anything without thanksgiving is as though he robbed God." I urge my colleagues: Let's remember to be thankful for the God-given freedoms we enjoy in the United States and to shine a light on the dark corners of the world. Let's not forget in this Congress how we can help the millions who are robbed of these fundamental rights.

Thank you.

TRIBUTE TO AFGHANISTAN ROBOTICS TEAM

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I am very pleased that Afghanistan's robotics team will be coming to Washington to compete with students from nearly 150 countries in the FIRST Global Challenge, which begins on Sunday, July 16. I extend a warm welcome to these brilliant young minds, Lida Azizi, Somayeh Faruqi, Faramarz Najafi, Rodaba Noori, Fatemah Qaderyan, Kawsar Roshan, and Alireza Mahraban. Of course, we extend a warm welcome to the team's creation, a robot that can sort balls, recognize blue and orange, and move objects to their proper places. People across Afghanistan are extremely proud of the robotics team's achievements. In recent days, Americans have become acquainted with the many challenges they have overcome in order to excel in their studies and come to the U.S., and we too, are very proud of them.

I have been impressed to learn about their passion for education and determination to pursue STEM studies. This team's indomitable spirit is a testament to what can be achieved through hard work, creativity, and perseverance. Each member of the Afghan robotics team has become a powerful symbol for young women across the globe, especially for those in developing regions who face barriers to education and opportunity.

The FIRST Robotics Competition should also be recognized for its ability to bring young people together in the name of science, mathematics, and

technology. It is the creation of Granite Stater Dean Kamen, and had its beginnings in a New Hampshire high school gym a quarter century ago. Today, FIRST programs reach more than 400,000 young people across the world every year. Beginning this weekend in Washington, the FIRST Global Challenge will bring some of the best and brightest young people from around the world to compete, to demonstrate teamwork, and to forge new friendships.

It gives me great joy to know that Lida, Somayeh, Faramarz, Rodaba, Fatemah, Kawsar, and Alireza will be among them. The FIRST Global Challenge is a competition, and only one team will leave Washington with top honors, but the seven young women representing Afghanistan are already winners. They have had the courage to overcome barriers and the audacity to compete with some of the most talented young people from across the globe. I wish these young women great success. I thank them for inspiring us with their fierce determination to achieve.

80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JUVENILE AND FAMILY COURT JUDGES

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, today I am honored to congratulate the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges on 80 years of promoting justice for children and families.

On May 22, 1937, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, NCJFCJ, was established by judges who came together with a vision of strengthening the juvenile court system and providing support, sharing knowledge, and facilitating an exchange of ideas with their colleagues across the Nation. The NCJFCJ is the oldest judicial membership organization in the country and a leading provider of judicial education. The NCJFCJ believes judges are the leaders of the juvenile and family court system, and by engaging all stakeholders, better decisions are made with improved outcomes for children, families, and victims of domestic violence. I am so proud that they have made Reno, NV, their home.

The NCJFCJ brings together a broad constituency of judicial officers, attorneys, advocates, court administrators, clerks of court, probation officers, child welfare professionals, and others with a common goal of ensuring the most effective juvenile and family court system. It addresses a wide range of complex issues impacting the well-being of children and families that encompass juvenile delinquency, domestic child sex trafficking, child abuse and neglect, child custody and visitation, substance abuse, domestic violence, trauma, mental health, and military issues. The NCJFCJ also leads development and implementation of policies and practices to ensure fair, equal,

effective, and timely justice for children, families, and victims of domestic violence.

For eight decades, the NCJFCJ has been known for the exemplary quality of its services, including advanced education, training, publications, technical assistance, research, data and statistics, and policy development to promote justice for children and families. Inspired by the leadership, experience, expertise, dedication, and passion of its members, the NCJFCJ is committed to another 80 years of efforts to meet the ever-evolving needs of our most vulnerable population: the children and families who seek justice.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and honoring the 80 years of achievements and tireless efforts of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, its members and staff, past and present, to ensure a timely, fair, and coordinated justice system for children and families and safer communities across the country.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO JOE KALIKO

• Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I wish to thank and commend Joe Kaliko for his extraordinarily valuable commitment and service in aiding and advocating for our most vulnerable throughout the community. His many deeds of generosity and caring have made him a go-to person when people need help. His life is a real inspiration for all of us.

Joe Kaliko is founder of the Needs Clearinghouse, a private nonprofit organization. He has actively partnered with governmental agencies, in helping provide necessary—sometimes life-saving—resources to people through programs such as Hug a Hound and the Refugee Assistance Project. He has helped raise funds and contributions to a myriad of charitable causes, touching many, many lives. I have seen those people and the powerfully positive effects on their lives, disabled people who now have ramps for access to their homes, veterans who now have housing, ill people who now have better healthcare, and numerous others.

Joe Kaliko is all about making a difference. He is a true hero. •

RECOGNIZING THE HAVRE YOUTH BASEBALL ALL-STAR TEAM

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week I have the distinct honor of recognizing the Havre youth baseball, 10U, All-Star team. This past weekend, the team from Havre won the Montana Cal Ripken Baseball State title for the 10 years old and under division.

Despite a loss to Belgrade in their opening game of the tournament, the Havre All-Stars battled their way to the championship game, and defeated Bozeman to claim the title. In addition to an outstanding performance on the

baseball diamond, the community of Havre also served as host for the tournament. A successful 4-day youth sports State tournament is the result of hard work from the many volunteers who pitched in to make the event a great success.

With summer events in full swing, I would like to commend the community of Havre for their hospitality and congratulate the youngsters on the All-Star team for their accomplishment.●

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF NEW BALTIMORE, MICHIGAN

• Mr. PETERS. Mr President, today I wish to recognize the 150th anniversary of the city of New Baltimore, MI. This celebration is a historic benchmark for New Baltimore, as well as the State of Michigan.

Located in Macomb County, along the northern coastline of Lake St. Clair, New Baltimore residents pride themselves on their traditional downtown, rich heritage, recreational activities, and a family-orientated spirit. Throughout 150 years of change and growth, the city remains anchored in that local spirit.

The area was first inhabited by French fur trappers and hunters. Among those was an explorer named Pierre Yax, the son of the first German resident of Michigan. Yax secured a land grant from President John Quincy Adams in 1826, in what was then the Michigan Territory. As other French settlers followed, long farms were established, stretching from the rivers outward. In 1845, the area was first recognized as a settlement when Alfred Ashley platted 60 acres of land. Mr. Ashley was a local businessman and would name the area the Village of Ashley. This name would remain until 1867 when the village was officially incorporated as New Baltimore. New Baltimore would stay a village until it became a city in 1931.

In its early days, New Baltimore was linked to the regional economy through its position along waterways. It operated as a small port, bringing agriculture and manufactured goods to the surrounding communities. The area became known for the manufacturing of barrels, brooms, bricks, coffins, corsets, and creamery products.

As shipping methods changed and automobile transportation increased, so too did the role of New Baltimore. The city began transitioning to a resort and commercial area. New attractions were built, including an opera house, hotels, saloons, a brewery, and other leisure and resort attractions. With the construction of a locomotive line between port Huron and Detroit in the 1800s, New Baltimore became a hub of activity well into the 20th century.

Today New Baltimore is a vibrant community covering nearly 7 square miles. Residents take pride in their excellent schools, including a high school, two middle schools, seven elementary schools, two early childhood

centers, and an alternative education program. The resort industry continues to flourish with events such as the annual Bay-Rama Fish Fly Festival, which attracts thousands of people each year. The city's public park and beaches also provide opportunity for numerous recreational activities.

The city of New Baltimore has a proud history, vibrant present, and bright future. As New Baltimore celebrates this milestone, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating its residents, elected officials, and businesses as they celebrate their history. I wish the city continued growth and prosperity in the years ahead.●

REMEMBERING KENNETH ENGBRETTSON

• Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the life of Kenneth Engebretson, a lifelong Montanan—born and raised—and a veteran who served in World War II.

To Kenneth's family, on behalf of myself, my fellow Montanans, and my fellow Americans, I would like to extend our deepest gratitude for Kenneth's service to this Nation.

Kenneth was born in 1919 to Oliver and Tena Engebretson in South Gildford, MT. He was raised on the family farm that was homesteaded by his parents in 1910. Kenneth graduated from Gildford High School in 1937 and set out from home to explore his country.

After graduation he went to Dalton, MN, to work on his uncle's farm. He enlisted in the Army on October 16, 1941, out of Fergus Falls, MN. He was initially stationed at Fort Sill, OK, and then at Fort Leonard Wood, MO.

Kenneth went on to serve in World War II from 1941 to 1944 in the Philippines and New Guinea. While deployed, Kenneth contracted malaria and was hospitalized. As a result of the illness, Kenneth was discharged in November of 1945 and immediately returned to the Havre area to help on the family farm in Gildford, MT. He remained on the farm to raise a family of his own.

He was proudly involved in the Veterans of Foreign Wars organization and remained an active member until his passing on October 10, 1993. Kenneth left behind a deeply appreciative and loving family, and his memory is preserved in the living history of the Engebretson family farm.

Let us now take a moment to recognize the life of Kenneth Engebretson and the legacy he left behind. We deeply appreciate his service to the American people.●

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH BRANNON

• Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Joseph Brannon, one of my Washington, DC, interns, for all of the hard work he has done for me and my staff at the Senate Republican Conference.

Joseph is a graduate of Stevens High School in Rapid City, SD. Currently, he is attending Auburn University in Auburn, AL, where he is majoring in sociology. 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 Brannon for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO WILL JANKLOW

• Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Will Janklow, one of my Washington, DC, interns, for all of the hard work he has done for me and my staff at the Senate Republican Conference.

Will is a graduate of Northland Pines High School in Eagle River, WI. Currently, he is attending the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, MN, where he is majoring in mathematics. Will is a dedicated worker who has been committed to getting the most out of his experience.

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

TRIBUTE TO DREW LINGLE

• Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Drew Lingle, 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.

Drew is a graduate of Century High School in Bismarck, ND. Currently, he is attending Minnesota State University Moorhead, where he is majoring in history. Drew is a dedicated worker who has been committed to getting the most out of his experience.

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

TRIBUTE TO ELIZABETH MACLACHLAN

• Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Elizabeth MacLachlan, a legal 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.

Elizabeth is a graduate of Brigham Young University in Provo, UT, having earned a degree in family life. Currently, she is pursuing a law degree at J. Reuben Clark Law School, Brigham Young University. Elizabeth is a dedicated worker who has been committed to getting the most out of her experience.

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