

Club of Montpellier, to offer the shirts with the name of your city to your school's soccer team. M. Mayor Hollar do not hesitate to tell me if you agree with this gift, in that way we will write together a great story.

Moreover, I also hope to meet you one day, I will be very pleased to welcome you in Montpellier.

Yours faithfully,

PHILIPPE SAUREL,
Mayor of Montpellier, President of
Montpellier Méditerranée Métropolis.

(At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

HURRICANE MARIA RECOVERY

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, Hurricane Maria devastated Puerto Rico, and I am on the island today with FEMA Administrator Brock Long, Governor Ricardo Rossello, Resident Commissioner JENNIFFER GONZÁLEZ, and other officials to assess the damage and assistance that is needed to help residents and make the island whole. It is our responsibility to do everything we can to ensure our government responds to this hurricane the same as it would anywhere else in the country. We must stand with our brothers and sisters, and give Puerto Rico the resources it needs to rebuild and become stronger than ever before.●

(At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I was unavailable for rollcall vote No. 203 on the nomination of William Emanuel to be a member of the National Labor Relations Board. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay".●

CONFIRMATION OF NOEL J. FRANCISCO

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I could not support Noel Francisco's confirmation to serve as the 47th Solicitor General of the United States. I do not believe Mr. Francisco can serve as a check on this administration and this President.

Created in 1870 and colloquially referred to as the "10th Supreme Court Justice," the Solicitor General represents the U.S. Government before the Supreme Court. The Solicitor General culls through thousands of cases a year and selects which cases the Department of Justice will appeal. Although the Solicitor General is the third highest ranked office in the Department of Justice, it is the Solicitor General alone who selects and approves every appeal. This heavy responsibility requires that the Solicitor General use sound legal judgment and resist pressure from and maintain independence from the President and Cabinet-level members.

History contains examples of Solicitors General who deferred to the Presi-

dent while constructing legal strategy and Presidents who were directly involved with shaping legal arguments. President Eisenhower personally wrote handwritten notes on his Solicitor General's briefs before they were submitted to the Supreme Court. President Eisenhower's notes softened the Solicitor General's tone regarding the expediency of desegregation after the seminal Supreme Court decision of *Brown v. Board of Education*.

At this unique time in history, we cannot have a Solicitor General who will serve as a rubberstamp for this administration's policies. President Trump has shown a disregard and contempt for not only the rule of law but also for our constitutional separation of powers.

Frederick William Lehmann, Solicitor General during the Taft administration said that "the Government wins its point when justice is done in its courts." As acting-Solicitor General, Mr. Francisco defended the President's travel ban before the Ninth Circuit, in which he argued that Presidential authority regarding immigration is "largely immune from judicial control."

Mr. Francisco's lead in defending President Trump's Executive orders are deeply concerning. We need a Solicitor General that can say no to the President and resist positions advocated by the administration's hardliners when they fall outside of defensible legal boundaries. I do not believe Mr. Francisco can act as an independent check, and I could not support his confirmation.

REMEMBERING PETE DOMENICI

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I would like to take this time today to honor the life of one of our former colleagues and my friend, Pete Domenici of New Mexico. Pete had a long and memorable career and left an important legacy on this institution, of which his family can be proud.

Pete dedicated the majority of his life to advocating for the betterment of his home State and this Nation he loved so much. He started his career in public service after his election to the Albuquerque City Commission in 1968. He then took up the challenge to serve the people of his home State in Congress and was elected to the Senate in 1972. Pete served the people of New Mexico for 36 years, becoming the longest serving Senator in New Mexico history in the process.

During his career, Pete was chairman of the Senate Energy Committee and twice the chairman of the Senate Budget Committee. His adherence to fiscal responsibility eventually led to the passing of a balanced budget during his chairmanship.

He accomplished a great deal over the years in the Senate. His heartfelt concern and his dedication to his principles guided his work on every issue that came before him. Through it all,

his core values served as his inner compass and kept him in tune with the thinking of the people of New Mexico, who elected him to the Senate six separate times. I was fortunate enough to serve with Pete and, through our 12 shared years in the Senate together, came to admire his commitment to serving our great Nation.

During my time as ranking member of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions—HELP—Committee, I was able to see up close Pete and his wife Nancy's lifelong commitment to mental health. Through his hard work and determination, the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 was enacted into law.

His pragmatism was one of the many qualities Pete displayed everyday while working to improve the lives of all Americans. Pete's ability to form meaningful relationships with every person he met was why he was so trusted by Members on both sides of the aisle.

Among Pete's reasons to not seek a seventh term was his diagnosis of frontotemporal lobar degeneration. Through his fight against his debilitating disease, he was an inspiration to many. He did not let this slow him down. After his retirement from the Senate, Pete continued to work tirelessly for the advancement of the causes he cared so dearly about.

We now celebrate the life of Pete Domenici. Pete was many things in his life: a college baseball player, a Senator, an author, a husband, a father, a grandfather, and even a great-grandfather.

Diana joins in sending our heartfelt sympathy to the Domenici family. Pete has been a role model to so many for so many years, including me. He loved life, and he loved sharing it with his family and friends. Those who knew him will always remember his dedication, his selflessness, and his ability to solve problems. He will never be forgotten. God bless.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

225TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONNECTICUT STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY

• Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the Connecticut State Medical Society, as they celebrate 225 years of dedicated service to the medical profession and to the improvement of health services for Connecticut residents.

Founded in 1792, the Connecticut State Medical Society consists of more than 7,000 physicians who provide healthcare across the State. The society enhances the profession of medicine by providing educational courses and innovative learning experiences to physicians, which helps improve the overall quality of healthcare services and safeguards patient health.

For two and a quarter centuries, the society has set an impressive example for all physicians and served as a leader on countless issues that impact the health of our citizens. Early member physicians founded the Yale School of Medicine, the State's first general hospital—now known as Yale-New Haven Hospital—the world's first tumor registry, and many other medical milestones that have shaped the health of Connecticut and the Nation.

Most recently, the society has been at the forefront of efforts to combat the current addiction crisis and opioid abuse by working with policymakers to enact State laws tightening opioid prescribing, expanding knowledge and understanding of opioid addiction, and providing greater access to treatment. The society has also worked for many years to educate physicians, patients, and the general public on opioid abuse, as well as mental and behavioral health issues.

To its credit, the society goes beyond improving the quality of health services for the people of Connecticut. It has strongly advocated for affordable and accessible health insurance coverage while fighting against harmful consolidations of healthcare facilities that would result in less health service availability at a higher cost. The society is helping to address inequities in health services and disparities in health outcomes. Further, the society is a strong advocate for transparency throughout the entire healthcare insurance delivery system, ensuring its health services are easy to understand.

Steeped in rich history but always forward thinking, the Connecticut State Medical Society is a catalyst for positive change. I applaud the society's accomplishments and hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating the Connecticut State Medical Society for its 225 years of service.●

REMEMBERING CHARLES F. KNIGHT

● Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the life and contributions of a great man who passed away from complications of Alzheimer's on September 12, 2017, at the age of 81.

Charles Knight, or Chuck, as he was known to everyone, might have been born across the river in Illinois and loved a second home in Glen Lake, MI, but he spent his life as a Missourian.

In 1973 Chuck Knight joined Emerson. At that time, he became the youngest CEO to head a U.S. billion-dollar corporation. Within 5 years, the business press was hailing the leadership of Chuck Knight, and it was appropriate to do so then, and for the full 27 years, he served as Emerson's CEO. Because he was so well regarded, he was sought out to serve on a number of corporate boards, including Anheuser-Busch, AT&T, IBM, Baxter International, BP, Caterpillar, Morgan Stanley, and the Olin Foundation.

Between 1973 and 2000, Emerson grew from a dozen divisions generating total

revenues of \$1 billion to more than 60 businesses with revenues totaling over \$15 billion. International sales grew from 12 percent of the total to almost 40 percent. Emerson's record of increased earnings per share and dividends for each year of Mr. Knight's tenure as CEO was among the longest in U.S. business.

Chuck was a passionate leader. In a 1989 cover story, *Fortune* wrote that his "intensity level is about 327 on a scale of 1 to 10." His intensity, passion, and, most likely, his integrity, inspired commitment and loyalty from his management team, his employees, his competitors, and his friends.

Chuck's passion extended to his adopted hometown of St. Louis, MO. He didn't just offer his support; Chuck provided his personal advocacy and leadership to many organizations, including the Matthews-Dickey Boys & Girls Club and the Annie Malone Children and Family Service Center, serving children in the city of St. Louis. He led the major capital campaign for Washington University in St. Louis, and for decades, he worked closely with the Olin Business School, where he helped fund the Charles F. Knight Executive Education Center. His efforts were always to make a real and lasting impact.

Chuck married his high school sweetheart in 1957. Their joint philanthropy has resulted in countless benefits to the entire St. Louis area, including the Joanne Knight Breast Health Center at the Siteman Cancer Center and the Charles F. and Joanne Knight Alzheimer's Disease Research Center at the Washington University School of Medicine. Chuck and Joanne have been leading examples of the importance of giving back to one's community.

Chuck is survived by his loving wife, Joanne, and his four children and their families. He will be remembered as a loving husband, a caring father, a passionate leader, and a great friend. He made a difference.●

REMEMBERING GENE SULLIVAN

● Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the life and legacy of Arkansan Gene Sullivan. Gene will forever be remembered as the great optimist with the can-do attitude and endless determination. There was no project too small and, certainly, no project too large that he wouldn't tackle with his trademark tenacity. Gene led a life dedicated to the outdoors and was a man of great faith.

While there are many remarkable stories that we remember about Gene, I want to share a personal letter that he sent to his grandchildren on his 81st birthday. On February 8, 2017, Gene wrote the following:

As I sit in my easy chair in the early morning of my 81st birthday, I give thanks to the Lord for how He has blessed me throughout my life with love and mercy rather than justice. I want to share with you some things I know to be true and pray that you will con-

sider them in your short journey through this life on earth.

(1) God's judgement of how you live your life is the only one that is really important. (2) The Bible provides God's directions for having a successful life. Read it and live it. (3) When you are older and look back, you will not regret any time you spent with family, serving the Lord and loving and serving others.

I love you and you are one of the blessings of my life.

He also included two Scriptures for them to read and contemplate.

Deuteronomy 11:1: "Therefore you shall love the LORD your God, and always keep His charge, His statutes, His precepts, and His commandments [it is your obligation to Him]."

1 John 4:20: "Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen."

As we mourn the loss of this Arkansas leader, I think it would serve us all well to reflect upon the timeless wisdom that he passed along to his grandchildren on his 81st birthday.●

RECOGNIZING PJM INTERCONNECTION

● Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I would like to take this moment for the Senate to recognize and honor the work of the PJM Interconnection and its 600 employees in Valley Forge, PA. This month, the company celebrates the 90th anniversary of its founding, as well as the 20th anniversary of its formation as an independent grid operator.

PJM is a world-class institution that oversees the largest power grid in North America. PJM performs the critical function of keeping the lights on 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for more than 65 million people in all or portions of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, and the District of Columbia.

PJM began in 1927 when three utilities realized the benefits and efficiencies possible by interconnecting to share their generating resources and formed the world's first continuing power pool. Since then, PJM's work has been dedicated to ensuring that reliable electricity is available at a reasonable price.

In 1997, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission approved PJM as the Nation's first fully functioning independent system operator. ISOs operate but do not own transmission systems in order to provide open access to the grid for nonutility users.

Since that beginning of three utilities, PJM has grown to more than 1,000 members. Those members represent transmission owners, generation owners, consumers, and residential and commercial customers in each of its 13-state region.

PJM has three simple goals: keeping the lights on, administering the buying