

Our laws permit criminal and domestic abusers to easily obtain weapons at gunshows and on the internet without a basic background check.

We know background checks work. States that require background checks on private handgun sales see fewer women killed by their partners and fewer law enforcement officers killed with handguns.

It is time we expand background checks to cover sales at gunshows and on the Internet.

We are still learning about what happened in Las Vegas, but we do know that the shooter had more than 10 rifles in his hotel room and that he may have used an assault weapon.

Today in the United States, military-style assault weapons may be sold legally to civilians. Assault weapons are not needed for either hunting or self-defense.

They are weapons of war designed to kill large numbers of people in close quarters.

This is not sustainable—and the public agrees. Just last year, a poll showed that 57 percent of Americans favor a ban on assault weapons.

In fact, from 1994 and 2004, we had laws that prohibited anyone from getting an assault weapon. I believed then and I believe now that those laws made all of us safer.

Unfortunately, right when the positive effects of those laws were taking effect, they were allowed to expire. Now, time and again, we have felt the costs of our inaction.

It is time that we finally take steps to ensure that other communities do not experience the pain that Sandy Hook, Washington, San Bernardino, Roseburg, Orlando, and now Las Vegas have gone through.

I hope my colleagues will join me in remembering the victims of this attack and will support legislation to prevent any of us from once again having to rise to remember what will be another worst mass shooting in our Nation's history.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONNECTICUT STATE AFL-CIO

• Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the Connecticut State Labor Council AFL-CIO as they celebrate 60 years of extraordinary and exemplary advocacy on behalf of Connecticut workers and their families.

Since its formation in 1957 with the merging of the Connecticut Federation of Labor and the Connecticut State Industrial Union Council, the Connecticut State AFL-CIO has demonstrated an impressive dedication to the wellbeing of workers across the State. The organization seeks fair and equal treatment for workers through collective bargaining on their behalf and promoting legislation to create

good jobs and provide people with the skills needed for them.

Simply, they strengthen the middle class, allowing tens of thousands of people to own a home, raise their families, and retire with financial security.

Uniting workers and their families toward these common goals, the Connecticut AFL-CIO has fought continuously and ceaselessly for better wages, benefits, and conditions for the working families of the State. Throughout its six decades, the Connecticut AFL-CIO has facilitated union member access to insurance plans, credit cards, and beneficial mortgage programs.

Always looking for ways to raise the standard of living for our middle-class workers, the Connecticut AFL-CIO was one of the early leaders in the fight to achieve affordable and accessible quality healthcare, pay equity, and parental and medical leave for all employees. The Connecticut AFL-CIO also helps those who have lost their jobs, supporting fair unemployment compensation laws and education and job training programs.

Since its formation, the Connecticut AFL-CIO continuously puts the needs of workers and their families first. I applaud their numerous achievements and hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating the Connecticut State AFL-CIO on 60 years of service and commitment to Connecticut employees. •

TRIBUTE TO BRIGADIER GENERAL BOBBI DOORENBOS

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize and congratulate an exceptional airman, Brig. Gen. Bobbi Doorenbos, on her selection for promotion to the rank of brigadier general in the Air National Guard. This promotion means she will leave behind her role as commander of the Arkansas Air National Guard's 188th Wing in Fort Smith, AR, to assume her new responsibilities in Washington, DC, as part of the leadership team within the Pentagon's Total Force Continuum Office.

Brigadier General Doorenbos clearly epitomizes the finest qualities of a military leader as evidenced by her distinguished career. After graduating from Iowa State University, she entered the U.S. Air Force in 1995 and initially served as an F-16 pilot in the Iowa Air National Guard's 185th Fighter Wing. She continued her honorable service by holding various positions in the Maryland, Washington, DC, and Virginia areas, including Air National Guard Crisis Action Team member; White House Fellow; executive officer/speechwriter for the Air National Guard Director; chief of Airborne Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance; special adviser to Vice President Joe Biden for Defense Policy and Intelligence Programs; and chief of program requirements and integration at the National Guard Bureau. She has flown combat missions in support of Operations Noble Eagle, Southern Watch,

and Iraqi Freedom. Brigadier General Doorenbos is also a senior pilot with more than 1,200 flight hours in the F-16C Fighting Falcon and MQ-1B Predator.

She is truly a trailblazer. As the first female to command the 188th Wing at Ebbing Air National Guard Base in Arkansas, she simultaneously held the title of air commander with responsibility for over 1,000 Federal technicians, Active Guard, and Reserve members in the execution of three distinct mission sets: remotely piloted aircraft; intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance operations; and targeting. Her wing in comprised of the most dedicated, loyal, and highly trained airmen that the National Guard has to offer. As a team, they have taken immense pride in fulfilling their roles and obligations to the State of Arkansas and to the Nation. As a testament of Brigadier General Doorenbos's superior leadership, the 188th Wing was awarded the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for its incredible accomplishments during her tenure as wing commander.

Brigadier General Doorenbos has displayed an extraordinary amount of dedication and passion throughout her life and career. As a mother of three daughters, it is my pleasure to watch Brigadier General Doorenbos excel in her career and show young women that they are capable of achieving anything. She will continue to be a major asset to the U.S. Air Force in her new role at the Pentagon.

I want to extend my sincere congratulations to her on this well-deserved promotion. I am very proud of her many accomplishments and wish her all the best in her future service to our country. •

TRIBUTE TO STEVE FARNHAM

• Mr. KING. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the service of an extraordinary individual in northern Maine. Mr. Stephen M. Farnham, of Mapleton, has been a driving force behind the Aroostook Area Agency on Aging. Steve began with the Aroostook agency in its infancy in the mid-1970s and is stepping down after having led the agency for the last 40 years.

Steve attended the University of Maine in Presque Isle, where he earned his bachelor of arts and went on to earn his master of public administration degree from the University of Maine in Orono. He also received a number of certificates and attended specialized courses that helped him continuously improve services and collaboration at the agency. While serving as an adjunct professor, he taught courses at public and private institutions in Maine, as well as health and safety courses with the American Red Cross. He also held many different positions with the Katahdin Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America, for which he has been recognized with multiple awards.

As chief executive officer of the not-for-profit corporation Aroostook Area

Agency on Aging, Steve oversaw its expansion to 140 employees, an annual budget of \$3.4 million, and the responsibility for a congregate housing project which the agency developed, owned, and managed. His professional appointments and boards on which he served insured that the State of Maine, as well as the Nation, were able to capitalize on his expertise on aging related policies. These ranged from being a delegate to the White House Conference on Aging three times, serving with the Federal Council on Aging, and helping incorporate, lead, and direct the Aroostook Regional Transportation System.

In addition to the entities already mentioned, Steve also served his hometown on the budget committee and has received a number of meritorious awards, including the Presque Isle Area Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year Award, the Maine State Bar Association John Ballou Distinguished Service Award, and was named a Rotary International Paul Harris Fellow. Despite all the very public recognition for a job well done at work and beyond, the most telling recognition is the strength of the programs and the high praise by clients and collaborators. Steve is universally respected, well-loved, and will be greatly missed, but the solid structure that he put in place and strengthened over the years will stand. I thank Steve both for his work at the helm of the Area Agency on Aging and his work serving communities across Aroostook County.●

35TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ALASKA QUARTERLY REVIEW

● Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize one of our Nation's finest literary journals, the Alaska Quarterly Review, now marking its 35th year of literary excellence.

Alaska Quarterly Review was first published in 1982 at the University of Alaska Anchorage and has evolved to be a joint publication of the university and the Center for Narrative and Lyric Arts. From the beginning, it was designed to highlight the work of strong literary voices from Alaska and beyond. Publishing fiction, short plays, poetry, photo essays, and literary non-fiction, the journal has an especially strong commitment to promote new and emerging writers.

The founding editor and editor-in-chief of Alaska Quarterly Review, Ronald Spatz, envisioned the journal as a way to break through stereotypes and present Alaska to the greater literary community. That goal was far surpassed, as Alaska Quarterly Review has won accolades from some of the most prestigious reviewers and publications in the country. Pulitzer Prize-winning critic Michael Dirda wrote in *The New York Review of Books* that the Alaska Quarterly Review "remains one of our best, and most imaginative, literary magazines." *The New York Times Book Review* labeled it "fresh treasure."

Alaska Quarterly Review has also been featured and supported by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Alaska Humanities Forum, Alaska State Council on the Arts, and the Rasmussen Foundation, and honored by Alaska Center for the Book and others. A number of works originally published in the journal have been subsequently selected for inclusion in *The Best American Essays*, *The Best American Poetry*, *The Best American Mystery Stories*, *The Best Creative Nonfiction*, *The Best American Short Stories*, *The Best American Nonrequired Reading*, *Prize Stories*, *The O. Henry Awards*, *The Beacon Best*, and *The Pushcart Prize*; *The Best of the Small Presses*.

In addition to its literary influence on the national level, Alaska Quarterly Review brings a strong focus to the development and importance of Alaska Native and indigenous literatures. Alaska Native language survival and resilience are portrayed as a national and global concern.

Mr. Spatz writes that Alaska Quarterly Review "has been and is of Alaska but not Alaskan. We have a global perspective, and, although we have published primarily American authors, our writers hail from a wide range of nations." The journal's 35th anniversary observance in October reaches across the Pacific Ocean by featuring "In the Footprint of the Crocodile Man: Memories, Myths and Contemporary Art of the Sepik River, Papua New Guinea," a reflection of the commonalities of human experience. At the same event, the universal elements of birth and language are celebrated in a beautiful film, "Shaawatke's Birth," performed in English and Tlingit, one of Alaska's precious indigenous languages.

The impact of Alaska Quarterly Review extends far from its origins in my home State and is worthy of celebration by this body and all Americans who recognize the power of the literary arts to shape our thoughts, our ideals, and our country. I commend Alaska Quarterly Review and its editor, Ronald Spatz, its contributors, and its supporters for 35 years of excellence. I hope for many more to come.●

REMEMBERING ALTO "BUD" ADAMS, JR.

● Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I would like to recognize the legacy of an extraordinary Floridian and friend who passed away this past weekend.

Alto "Bud" Adams, Jr., owner of Adams Ranch, died this weekend at age 91. Born in Fort Pierce, FL, in 1926, Bud was known in Florida and around the Nation for developing the Braford breed, a new breed of heavy-yielding cattle, crossed between the Herefords and the Brahmans, that was better able to handle the heat of south Florida.

For 75 years, Bud Adams tended the family-owned Adams Ranch, which has grown to 50,000 acres of land across St. Lucie, Madison, Okeechobee, and Osceola Counties.

The family's land is home to one of the largest cow-calf ranches in the country. This land was also one of the first sets of conservation easements to be added to the Everglades. Today thousands of acres of Adams Ranch land have been placed into permanent land trust, including part of the Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Areas.

Adams Ranch was first purchased in 1937 for \$1.50 an acre by Bud's father, Florida Supreme Court Judge Alto Adams, Sr.

Since then, Adams Ranch has received multiple environmental awards from Audubon Florida, the Farmers Conservation Alliance, and the National Cattlemen's Beef Association for the owners' leadership in land, water, and wildlife management.

Bud was also honored with the Pete Hegener Leadership Award by the Economic Development Council of St. Lucie County, an honor presented every year to a dedicated business leader who makes a significant contribution to St. Lucie County's economy and quality of life.

Bud Adams was not just a cattleman and businessman; he was a devoted environmental conservationist and a philanthropist. Bud founded the United Way of St. Lucie County and supported causes like the A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery and Heathcote Botanical Gardens. He also sat on the board of the Indian River State College Foundation.

In Bud's own words, "It is not enough for us to just do a good job breeding and caring for cattle. We must have a more holistic approach that keeps man, cattle, wildlife, and the land in a relationship that is profitable, productive and can be continued indefinitely."

Bud showed us what it truly meant to be an environmental steward and a cowboy. He always took pride in his management of land, water, and wildlife, and Florida is better because of it.

I extend my deepest condolences to his family, particularly his wife, Dorothy. He is also survived by his sister Elaine Harrison; his children Alto Lee Adams, III, and his wife, Cindy, Michael L. Adams and his wife, Rachael, and Robert Adams and his wife, Cindee; his grandchildren; and great-grandchildren.●

37TH ANNIVERSARY OF "I LOVE LIFE" RADIO SHOW

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize one of radio broadcasting's longest running shows, "I Love Life." Created by South Dakota native, Jerry Dahmen, the show has hosted several of country music's biggest stars and been featured on a number of local and national television programs.

Since the program began airing on KXRB Radio in Sioux Falls, the show has featured more than 1,600 guests who have shared inspirational stories of what it takes to turn adversity into victory. "I Love Life" has also given