

bravery, his dedication to our Nation's servicemembers, and his unwavering commitment to serving others. I am proud to rise today to recognize Mr. Williams and congratulate him on the christening of the USNS *Hershel "Woody" Williams*.

200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF BAHÀ'U'LÀH, THE FOUNDER OF THE BAHÀ'I FAITH

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I am very pleased to draw attention today to the 200th anniversary of the birth of Baha'u'llah, the founder of the Baha'i Faith.

The Baha'i Faith has over 5 million followers around the world, including over 2,000 in Tennessee. Baha'i's come from virtually every racial, ethnic, national, tribal, and linguistic background on the planet.

On October 22, 2017, Baha'i communities across the United States and around the world will commemorate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Baha'u'llah—the founder of the Baha'i Faith—and celebrate his life and his teachings.

Baha'u'llah was born to a noble family in 1817 in Persia, modern-day Iran. As a young man, he was known for his charity and service to others and was called the father of the poor. In 1844, he founded the Baha'i Faith, a new and independent religion with its own scriptures, laws, teachings, and practices.

Baha'u'llah proclaimed a message of justice, unity, and peace. This message called for, among other things, the equality of women and men, an end to racial prejudice, universal education, interfaith harmony, and international cooperation. As a result of his teachings, Baha'u'llah was imprisoned and exiled for over 40 years by the Persian and Ottoman empires.

Despite the injustice and oppression he faced throughout his life, Baha'u'llah continued to promote a message of peace and unity based upon harmony within the human race. In every place to which he was banished, he touched the lives of all those around him. Even some of his opponents, after meeting him, became his friends and admirers.

Today Baha'i's in Iran are still persecuted for their faith, and human rights experts have called their situation one of the clearest and most severe cases of religious persecution in the world.

The Baha'i Faith first arrived in the U.S. over 120 years ago. Baha'i's now live in every State of the Union, including Tennessee, where the community has grown to over 2,000 members.

Wherever they live, Baha'i's champion the principles that Baha'u'llah proclaimed. They strive to build a better world by being good citizens, serving their communities, and working side by side with others to promote the common good.

On this important occasion, I congratulate the Baha'i community of

Tennessee and across the United States on the bicentennial of the birth of Baha'u'llah.

REMEMBERING EVELYNE J. VILLINES

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the passing of disability rights pioneer and my long-time friend, Ms. Evelyne Villines. Ever since I first met Evelyne during my early years in the Iowa House of Representatives, I knew her to be a fierce advocate on behalf of those with disabilities. She had an outstanding work ethic and never stopped campaigning for those with disabilities to be recognized for their abilities and not by what others saw as their limitations.

Thanks to people like Evelyne, our society has made a lot of progress in this area. Evelyne's tireless work earned her recognition on both the State and national levels as an inductee into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame and the national Hall of Fame for Persons with Disabilities. Evelyne's efforts were recognized as paving the way for passage of the American with Disabilities Act of 1990.

She served on numerous commissions and joined the board of SourceAmerica in its infancy, leading the company to become one of the largest employers of people with disabilities in the Nation. Evelyne's advocacy and resulting accomplishments have opened the doors of opportunity for people with disabilities.

I am honored to stand before you in recognizing Evelyne for her lifelong commitment to service. Evelyne's legacy will live on for years to come through the countless individuals who will continue to benefit from her life's work.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT HIGDON, JR.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Robert Higdon, Jr., and congratulate him on his appointment as the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of North Carolina.

Bobby earned both his law degree and undergraduate degree from Wake Forest University and has a decorated career in public service and in private practice. Prior to law school, he worked for then-Secretary of Transportation Elizabeth Dole and for Senator John East. Upon graduating from law school, Bobby served as a law clerk to Judge Eugene H. Phillips on the North Carolina Court of Appeals. After working for several years in private practice, he began a successful career as a Federal prosecutor.

From 1991 until 2015, Bobby served in the U.S. Attorney's Office and the U.S. Department of Justice in a number of roles, including chief of the criminal division in the Eastern District of North Carolina. He has vast experience investigating, prosecuting, and advising on criminal cases, ranging from violent crime and drug trafficking to white collar and public integrity crimes.

Aside from his sterling legal career, Bobby is an active member of his community, inspiring and helping others. He serves his church as a volunteer and a Sunday School teacher, and he has mentored the next generation of lawyers by coaching in various mock trial competitions. His example reminds us that our roles as public servants extend beyond the office.

It was an honor to recommend Bobby Higdon to President Trump. Anyone who works with him knows he is a dedicated professional who has extensive legal knowledge and expertise. In addition, he is widely respected in the law enforcement community, and these relationships will be incredibly valuable as he takes on this important role. Bobby understands the challenges and issues facing North Carolina, and I know that he will continue to lead the U.S. Attorney's Office with dignity and respect.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO NORMAN JOSEPH

- Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I am pleased to commend Norman Joseph of Jackson, a leader in Mississippi athletics, on his induction into the Belhaven University Sports Hall of Fame this month. Coach Joseph is a Vicksburg native who played quarterback and defensive back at Mississippi State University. As a coach in the nearly four decades since, he has delivered a tradition of excellence, success, and Christian character to student-athletes in Mississippi and across the country.

Norman Joseph has coached on every level of 4-year college football. Starting and rebuilding teams became a hallmark of his career. He built the Belhaven University football program from the ground up and served as its inaugural head coach. Coach Joseph launched Belhaven's recruiting program, designed its uniforms, and consulted on the creation of practice facilities and a new athletic complex. Under his leadership, the football program experienced immediate success and achieved a Top 25 ranking for 6 consecutive weeks during its second season.

Coach Joseph has coached at three Jackson-area colleges. In addition to Belhaven, he served as quarterbacks coach at Millsaps College and head coach at Mississippi College in Clinton for nine seasons.

At Mississippi College, Coach Joseph took a program in decline and established a winning culture. Under his guidance, the team had an eight-win season in only 3 years. Within 5 years, the team won the conference championship and went to the second round of the Division III playoffs. Coach Joseph took his team to NCAA Top 25 National Rankings in scoring offense, total offense, passing offense, rushing

offense, first downs, and fewest interceptions. In 2009, he coached Mississippi College to the American Southwest Conference co-champions and was named the 2009 American Football Coaches Association Regional Coach of the Year and the 2009 American Southwest Conference Coach of the Year.

Coach Joseph began his coaching career at the University of Louisiana at Monroe as a position coach working for John David Crow, who was Bear Bryant's only Heisman Trophy winner. He later returned to Louisiana Monroe as offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach, delivering record offense, four consecutive winning seasons, and three NCAA Division IAA championship berths ranked at number four or higher.

He took over the Louisiana College football program 3 years after that program was reinstated and compiled the school's best record in more than 40 years.

He has also assisted programs at the University of Southern Mississippi, San Jose State University, Vanderbilt University, Louisiana Tech University, Northwestern State University, and Midwestern State University.

Coach Joseph has set offensive records at every school he has coached, including an NCAA Division I record for combined total yards in a game, a record set in 2001 that remained intact until last year.

Coach Joseph's career has been focused on more than gridiron wins and records. As a coach, his attention to the development of players as individuals has resulted in academic and professional success for many young men. Under his guidance, scores of players have earned Academic All-Conference, All-American, All-Conference, and MVP honors. He has the distinction of coaching three quarterbacks with Super Bowl rings, and one of his former players is currently the head football coach of the Philadelphia Eagles.

Coach Joseph has been active in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. In 2016, he was appointed by Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant to the Governor's Commission on Physical Fitness and Sports.

I am proud to recognize Norman Joseph as an outstanding Mississippian. He and his wife, the former Jane Bird of Vicksburg, have three daughters, Elizabeth, Grace Anne, and Sara Catherine. Elizabeth serves on my staff. This family is active at First Baptist Church in Jackson where Coach Joseph serves as a deacon.

Belhaven University's long tradition of producing successful student-athletes could not be accomplished without outstanding leadership from coaches and staff. I know Norman Joseph provided that leadership and character, and I am pleased he will be honored as a member of the Belhaven University Sports Hall of Fame.●

TRIBUTE TO TODD DUNLAP

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Todd Dunlap from East Helena, MT. Todd served in the U.S. Navy for 24 years as an electronic warfare and cryptology specialist, ultimately attaining the rank of master chief petty officer, the highest enlisted rank in the Navy. Todd's service included seven deployments overseas in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and other efforts. His work supported Special Operations Forces on the ground.

Todd's service did not end when he left Active Duty. He now works for the Montana Department of Veterans Affairs and continues to support those who have also served our country. His peers view him as a highly skilled professional and subject matter expert, and he has earned a reputation for selfless outreach across the State to assist veterans and their family members navigate the VA.

As someone who continues to serve members of the Armed Forces community, Todd is receiving a gift from a Montana organization that donates a fully outfitted trip to military service-members who have provided extraordinary service to our country and to those facing life-threatening illness. I sincerely thank Todd for his continued service to our great Nation. He is well-deserving of this recognition. As an avid outdoorsman myself, I hope he tags a wonderful elk during his time away with family.●

TRIBUTE TO CHRIS HINDOEN

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week, I have the distinct honor of recognizing an exceptional volunteer named Chris Hindoien. Chris has helped inform and educate Montanans serving in the National Guard or Reserve component, as well as their employers, about the rights and responsibilities associated with a military mobilization.

In August, Chris was recognized by the Office of the Secretary of Defense for nearly 4 years of service as the State chairman of the Montana Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, ESGR. For his efforts, Chris received the Exceptional Public Service Award. During his stretch as chairman, he worked tirelessly to make sure that the relationship between military servicemembers and their employers remained strong across Big Sky Country. Chris is the son of the late Brig. Gen. Gary Hindoien, a former commander of the Montana Air National Guard, so his demonstrated commitment to our State and our Nation comes as no surprise.

Montana has a longstanding tradition of public service. Whether it be working on an agriculture project as a Peace Corps volunteer or as an Army Ranger at the tip of the military spear, the Montana attitude towards service to others continues to endure and Chris's work has enabled others to serve. Thank you, Chris, for commit-

ting your time and talent to enable the success of others.●

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-3135. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Remedial Action Schemes Reliability Standard" (18 CFR Part 40) (Docket No. RM16-20-000) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 16, 2017; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3136. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Balancing Authority Control, Inadvertent Interchange, and Facility Interconnection Reliability Standards" (RIN1902-AF30) (Docket No. RM16-13-000) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 16, 2017; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3137. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Significant New Use Rule on Certain Chemical Substances" (RIN2070-AB27) (FRL No. 9966-84-OCSP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 16, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3138. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Promulgation of State Implementation Plan Revisions; Infrastructure Requirements for the 2010 SO2 and 2010 PM2.5 National Ambient Air Quality Standards; North Dakota" (FRL No. 9966-00-Region 2) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 16, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3139. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Oklahoma: Final Approval of State Underground Storage Tank Program Revision" (FRL No. 9968-29-Region 6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 16, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3140. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Interim Final Determination to Defer Sanctions; California; Los Angeles-South Coast Air Basin" (FRL No. 9969-03-Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 16, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3141. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval of Nebraska Air Quality Implementation Plans; Adoption of a New Chapter under the Nebraska Administrative Code" (FRL No. 9968-76-Region 7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 16, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3142. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval of Nebraska's Air Quality