

Dr. Bertram's personal awards include the Meritorious Civilian Service Medal, the Superior Civilian Service Medal, two awards of the Legion of Merit, "A" Proficiency Designator in Hematology/Oncology from the Surgeon General of the U.S. Army, Order of Military Medical Merit, two awards of the U.S. Army Meritorious Service Medal, and two awards of the U.S. Army Commendation Medal. Dr. Bertram's professionalism, patriotism, and sustained selfless commitment to service reflect the very best values of our Nation's Senior Executive Service. I join his family and friends in wishing him the best in the years ahead.

REMEMBERING BRONSON C. LA FOLLETTE

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Bronson C. La Follette, who was born in 1936 in Washington, DC, and passed away March 15, 2018, in Madison, WI. Bronson dedicated his life to the pursuit of justice and was known as the People's Lawyer. He was a progressive in the tradition of his father, Senator Robert M. La Follette, Jr., and his grandparents Senator Robert M. "Fighting Bob" La Follette, Sr., and Belle Case La Follette.

A true Badger at heart, Bronson earned his bachelor's and law degrees from the University of Wisconsin—Madison. Following his graduation in 1960, he worked in private practice before being appointed Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin by U.S. Attorney General Robert Kennedy. In 1964, at the age of 28, he was elected as Wisconsin's attorney general and served two terms. He was the youngest state attorney general in American history ever elected to the office. As attorney general, he was a champion for consumer protection and served as chair of President Lyndon Johnson's Consumer Advisory Council.

In 1968, Bronson became the Democratic Party's nominee for Governor of Wisconsin, an election he lost to incumbent Governor Warren Knowles. In 1974, Bronson was again elected as attorney general of Wisconsin, vowing to make the department of justice live up to its name. To Bronson, that meant taking on an activist role, hiring a bright young progressive team, and not being afraid to tackle new ideas and sensitive subjects head on. Wisconsinites will recognize some of the attorneys who made up that bright, young team because two of them have become iconic progressives in their own right. Ed Garvey and Kathleen Falk spent a portion of their early careers in Bronson La Follette's department of justice.

In 1978, Bronson married the love of his life, Barbara. He was also blessed with a son, a daughter, two grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

In 1987, Bronson retired from public service and joined a prominent law firm where he continued to advocate for criminal justice reform and government transparency.

Bronson was also a passionate advocate for children. He founded the Dane County Project for the Prevention of Child Abuse and became the chairman of the National Campaign for Missing and Exploited Children.

No tribute to Bronson La Follette would be complete without a nod to his wonderful sense of humor. Together with his friend, State treasurer Charles Smith, he campaigned in a camper, bringing their unique blend of politics and fun to communities throughout the State. He cherished his reputation as a talented washboard player and percussionist. His most remembered antics involved his Irish Setter "Cutter." When Bronson was cited with allowing Cutter to run at large in Maple Bluff, he hired Madison attorney and prankster Edward Ben Elson to defend the dog. Elson demanded that the dog be tried by a jury of his peers: 12 Irish Setters. In his next campaign, Bronson had buttons featuring Cutter with the slogan "Bronson dog gone it."

A colorful spectrum of words is necessary to capture the essence of Bronson La Follette, some of which may seem contradictory. Those words include progressive, irreverent, bipartisan, entertaining, passionate, fair, outspoken, just, funny, service-minded, champion, fun-loving, defender, activist, committed, blunt, values-driven, but what I will remember most about Bronson is how vigorously he embraced his personality, how sweetly he loved his family, and how passionately he fought for justice. Wisconsin owes a debt of gratitude to this extraordinary man who brought equality and justice to so many.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE SIKH COMMUNITY IN NEW JERSEY

• Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the important contributions of the Sikh community in New Jersey and across the country. New Jersey is enriched by the diversity of its residents who have promoted a climate of social tolerance and intellectual pluralism that has sustained our State throughout its history. Since first immigrating to the United States from Punjab, India, over 100 years ago, the Sikh community has played a critical role in enhancing and contributing to New Jersey and our Nation.

This month, Sikhs in New Jersey and across the country will celebrate their most significant annual event, Vaisakhi, the Sikh New Year; providing the Sikh community the time to remember history, celebrate collectively, and recommit to their religious traditions.

The New Jersey Sikh community has demonstrated a strong commitment to public service. Every Gurdwara, the Sikh place of worship, has a Langar, a free community kitchen that serves all visitors regardless of religion, caste,

gender, economic status, or ethnicity. The Langar instills the notion of equality and the brotherhood for all. Every November, the New Jersey Sikh community expands on this tradition and organizes the "Let's Share a Meal" event that distributes meals to homeless shelters in the area. In 2017, 275 Sikh community members prepared, packed, and delivered meals to 84 shelters over 2 days. This served more than 15,000 New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania residents.

New Jersey also recently welcomed three Sikh Americans as new public officials. On January 1, 2018, Ravi Bhalla became Hoboken's 30th mayor and the State's first Sikh mayor. Bhalla had previously served two terms on Hoboken's city council. Although Bhalla experienced periodic hateful attacks during his mayoral campaign, voters resoundingly rejected such divisive rhetoric when they elected him mayor.

In addition to electing its first Sikh mayor, New Jersey also elected Balvir Singh as a member of the Burlington County Board of Chosen Freeholders, making him the first Sikh American to win a countywide election in New Jersey. Singh, who served for nearly 2 years as a member of the Burlington Township Board of Education, was sworn into office on January 3, 2018.

New Jersey is also home to the Nation's first Sikh State attorney general, Gurbir Grewal. Grewal had previously served as the Bergen County prosecutor. The State Senate unanimously approved his appointment by a 29-0 vote on January 16. Grewal will enforce the law in a manner that protects all New Jersey residents.

The broad support that these three individuals garnered is a testament to New Jersey's culture of inclusion of individuals of all ethnicities and religious backgrounds.

However, we know that Sikh Americans across the country continue to endure discrimination and hateful attacks, from school bullying to verbal assaults to violence.

I invite my colleagues to join me in recognizing the important contributions of the Sikh community across the country as it celebrates its New Year festival. May we join with Sikh Americans in rejecting discrimination of any kind and embracing the rich diversity that makes each of our States strong and whole.●

REMEMBERING HARRY SHIPLEY, JR.

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to the life of Harry Shipley, Jr., from my hometown of Fort Smith, AR. Mr. Shipley was a husband, father, veteran, businessman, and community leader. He passed away on March 24, 2018, at the age of 96.

Born in 1922 during the Great Depression, Shipley graduated from Fort

Smith High School, where he was student body president. He attended the University of Arkansas and served as student commander of the Army ROTC while earning a degree in business.

A member of the Greatest Generation, he was a second lieutenant in reconnaissance and intelligence in the U.S. Army during World War II. He served in the European Theater and was injured in the Battle of Siegfried Line. Shipley received the Bronze Star and Purple Heart for his service to his country.

After the war, he graduated from the American Institute of Baking in Chicago, IL, and joined his father at the Shipley Baking Company. He worked there for 54 years, from 1945 to 1996, along with his brother and sons. He retired in 1996 as chairman of the board after the company was sold to Flower Foods.

Mr. Shipley was also a man of faith and someone who was involved in his community in a variety of ways. He was a lifetime member of First United Methodist Church and served as an usher and on several committees within the congregation.

I join with many in the Fort Smith community to honor Harry Shipley, Jr., and the wonderful legacy he leaves behind. My thoughts and prayers are with his loved ones as they mourn his passing and celebrate his life.●

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF COASTAL ENTERPRISES, INC.

● Mr. KING. Mr. President, today, I wish to recognize the 40th anniversary of Coastal Enterprises, Inc., CEI. Headquartered in Brunswick, ME, CEI is a national leader in rural economic development, helping to grow businesses and support communities through providing financing assistance and support for environmentally sustainable practices to increase prosperity in Maine and across the country. CEI provides loans and technical assistance to small businesses and community development stakeholders while simultaneously advancing changes in public policy to promote an environment ripe for economic growth.

Since its founding, CEI has been a mission-driven organization, striving to enable all people, especially those from low-income backgrounds, to reach their full potential. With a joint focus on economic growth and environmental health, CEI has tirelessly worked for 40 years to create a Maine economy that is sustainable both for our citizens and our land.

CEI's immense impact is undisputed; since inception, they have financed \$1.32 billion dollars' worth of loans, helping over 2,700 businesses. These companies often provide the backbone of their communities, in total employing over 37,000 people. Furthermore, CEI has been instrumental in the areas of affordable housing and childcare. Through their investments, they have created or preserved 2,075 affordable

housing units and 5,818 childcare slots, providing much-needed relief for families.

The success of the last 40 years speaks to the vision of the founders and the dedication of CEI's employees. We are lucky to have Coastal Enterprises, Inc., in our State, and I wish to congratulate them on their 40th anniversary. I am looking forward to watching the positive impacts of CEI's work for years to come.●

REMEMBERING WILLIAM "BILL" VARN

● Mr. SCOTT. Mr. President, today I would like to take a moment to recognize and honor the life of William "Bill" Varn, a great South Carolinian, who departed this life on November 18, 2017. Bill was a veteran of the U.S. Navy and served in World War II. After the war, Bill joined and eventually took over Enterprise Bank, originally located in Smoaks, SC. Mr. Varn served as CEO from 1951 to 2013, when he was named director emeritus last spring. It is believed that he is South Carolina's longest serving banker ever, and dedicated more than 70 years of his life to the industry. Today Emeritus Bank is a \$333 million institution spread across six SC counties.

Mr. Varn will be remembered not only for the great contributions he made in the financial services industry, but also for his love of his country, State, and family.●

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF FAIRVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH

● Mr. SCOTT. Mr. President, I would like to congratulate and honor Fairview Baptist Church in Spartanburg, SC for their 100th anniversary, which will be celebrated on June 24, 2018. Fairview Baptist Church was established in 1918 by a group of residents of the Fairview community, known also as the Flatwoods, under direction of Rev. C.M. Ellis and nine charter members. Starting with only 40 members 100 years ago, Fairview Baptist has since grown to include hundreds from the Spartanburg area, while still remaining a welcoming and devoted place of worship in the community.

I acknowledge and celebrate the church's 100 years as a congregation faithfully serving the people of Spartanburg.●

200TH ANNIVERSARY OF STANDING SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH

● Mr. SCOTT. Mr. President, I would like to congratulate and honor Standing Springs Baptist Church in Simpsonville, SC, for their 200th anniversary, which will be celebrated on October 18, 2018. As Standing Springs celebrates their bicentennial throughout the week and weekend, I thank them for their ongoing mission of service and fellowship that I hope will con-

tinue for 200 more years to come. I acknowledge and celebrate the church's 200 years as a congregation faithfully serving the people of Simpsonville and Greenville County.●

UNVEILING OF THE BISHOPVILLE JAMES DAVISON HERIOT STATUE ON THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ARMISTICE DAY

● Mr. SCOTT. Mr. President, I would like to recognize the American Legion Post 29 in Bishopville, SC as they celebrate the unveiling of the James Davison Heriot statue in downtown Bishopville on Sunday, November 11, 2018. James Davison Heriot was a South Carolina National Guard soldier who received the Medal of Honor for his actions during World War I.

Post 29 is honoring the Americans who fought in World War I by unveiling this statue on the 100th anniversary of the end of the American involvement in the conflict, previously known as Armistice Day. I look forward to the unveiling of the Bishopville Heriot statue, as well as all other commemorations that will take place on this special 100th anniversary.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:32 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. 2219. An act to increase the role of the financial industry in combating human trafficking.

H.R. 4203. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, with regard to stalking.

H.R. 4921. An act to require the Surface Transportation Board to implement certain recommendations of the Inspector General of the Department of Transportation.

H.R. 4925. An act to require the Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration to implement certain recommendations for management and collection of railroad safety data.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 431(a)(3) of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2017 (Public Law 115-31), and the order of the House of January 3, 2017, the Speaker appoints the following individuals on the part of the House to the Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission: Ms. Rebecca Kleefisch of Oconomowoc, Wisconsin and Ms. Heather Higgins of New York, New York.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 12:19 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 3445. An act to enhance the transparency and accelerate the impact of programs under the African Growth and Opportunity Act and the Millennium Challenge Corporation, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3979. An act to amend the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 to reauthorize the volunteer services, community partnership, and