

RECOGNIZING THE ALWAYS FREE HONOR FLIGHT NETWORK

• Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, today I am incredibly honored to rise and recognize a group of 23 heroic military veterans who will travel from West Virginia this week to visit our Nation's Capital as part of the ninth Always Free Honor Flight. On the occasion of their visit, in which they will see for the first time the monuments built in their honor, I want to express my utmost gratitude to these special men and women for their extraordinary bravery and patriotism and for their noble sacrifice to help keep our country free.

I have said this time and time again: West Virginia is one of the most patriotic States in this great Nation. With one of our country's highest per capita rates of military servicemembers and veterans, West Virginia is undoubtedly one of our Nation's most patriotic States. According to the Department of Defense, West Virginia had the highest casualty rate in the nation during the Vietnam war, and I am so proud that the Honor Flight will allow these West Virginia veterans to pay homage to their brethren at the Vietnam Wall. The 23 veterans participating in this week's Always Free Honor Flight truly embody the Mountain State's history and contributions to the safeguard of our American freedoms.

Our special West Virginians visiting this week represent warriors from 50 to 94 years old and have traveled from all parts of our great State, from Buckhannon to Bluefield, Princeton to Beckley, and many places in between. In addition to our Mountain State veterans, one veteran from North Carolina and two veterans from Virginia will be accompanying their West Virginia neighbors on the daylong adventure. Of the patriots attending, four served in World War II, two served in both the Korean war and the Vietnam war, 17 served in the Vietnam war, two served in the Cold War, one served in the Gulf War, and two served stateside.

I would especially like to recognize our World War II Veterans who will be on this Honor Flight. Ninety-four-year-old Sergeant Wetzel Ray Sanders from Midkiff joined the Army in Princeton in 1941. He was a gunner and rifleman stationed in Hawaii and is a Pearl Harbor survivor. Former Seaman Samuel Helmandollar will also be coming to Washington, DC. The Princeton native and 91-year-old joined the Navy in 1944 in Huntington and was a gunner. We will also be joined by 93-year-old Sergeant Rudolph Dillon Jennings from Bluefield. He joined the Army Air Corps in 1943 in Princeton and was stationed in England and served in the European Theater. John Howard Winfrey, a 93-year-old from Lindsie joined the Navy and Air Force in 1942. He served aboard ships in the Atlantic and Pacific as a torpedoman 2nd class during World War II.

These men represent our Nation's Greatest Generation, and their sac-

rifices and valor embody American patriotism. They fought in such a pivotal war, in an era that threatened our existence as a nation. Unfortunately, as the years go by, we are losing so many of our World War II veterans, and we must show them our utmost gratitude each and every day.

As I mentioned, we will also be joined by veterans of the Korean, Vietnam, Cold, and Gulf wars. They engaged in combat all over the world. They were pilots, helicopter gunners, and radio operators.

One of these veterans, Curtis Ray Vest of Bluefield, joined the Marine Corps in 1952 in Freeman and served in both Korea and Vietnam. In Korea, he served as a Field Observer for Field Artillery and was stationed in Incheon and Pusan. In Vietnam, he was part of the American rescue mission of the French from Vietnam to safety in Japan.

Another of these Veterans is Sergeant Marshall Glenn Mann who joined Air Force in 1968 in Falls Church. On March 4, 1971 during combat at Khe Sanh, the Republic of Vietnam air lift urgently needed to get ammunition to Khe Sanh in to support operation Lam Son 719. The objective of this mission was to destroy supply dumps and sever the Ho Chi Minh Trail, which was the corridor running through eastern Laos from North Vietnam to Cambodia and into South Vietnam. Because of the Cooper-Church Amendment passed by Congress in late 1970s, US ground troops and advisers were prohibited from entering Laos. However, U.S. helicopters supported the operation and U.S. fighter bombers, and B-52 bombers provided air cover. Sergeant Mann received the Distinguished Flying Cross for extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight for this operation.

Another Vietnam Veteran joining us is Staff Sergeant Danny Lewis Meadows, who joined the Air Force in 1966 in Beckley. Staff Sergeant Meadows was a mechanic on KC-135 Air Refueling Tanker for two years and refueled B-52 bombers and F-4 fighters in Southeast Asia. During his last two years of service, Staff Sergeant Meadows was a crew chief on a C-130 cargo aircraft in the Philippines and Vietnam. He flew to Saigon and Cam Ranh Bay Vietnam for fifteen to twenty-one days each month. He flew from several bases in Vietnam into the jungle to perform assault landings. He was working on his aircraft and was attacked with rockets and fell off the wing, broke his hip and wrist and with four months remaining on his enlistment and was shipped back to the U.S. to recover.

We will also have two Veterans that served in the Cold War One of them, Jackson P. Thompson served as a Recon Specialist from 1971-76. He was stationed at Fulda Gap in Germany, which was near the area between the Inner German Border of East and West Germany that contained two corridors of lowlands subjected to a potential invasion by Warsaw Pact forces.

Showing our appreciation to those who have served is something that we should do each and every day, but today is a special day to pay tribute and thank those who have volunteered to put their lives on the line for our freedoms. The memorials our Honor Flight participants will visit today serve as an important reminder to us all that our freedoms and liberties come at a steep cost. However, I know our veterans will find special meaning and potentially long-lost emotions when they tour such touching sites.

The brave West Virginia heroes today have all served this country in a variety of ways, working both at home and abroad. They have engaged in combat on U.S. soil in Pearl Harbor and all over the world, at the Panama Canal, working on the docks of Saigon, protecting the border of West Germany and serving in Desert Shield and Desert Storm. One of our visiting Vietnam veterans, Sergeant Dean Fluharty, who joined the Marine Corps in Parkersburg, earned a Purple Heart, Silver Star, Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry and a Good Conduct Medal. But regardless of their rank or duty, each and every one of these veterans answered our nation's call and has served with incredible pride and valor.

This week's 'Honor Flight' and the continued support of our Veterans would not be possible without the dedication of so many volunteers and caregivers. I would like to thank the four JROTC Cadets from Montcalm, Bluefield and Princeton High Schools as well as the military spouses serving as the guardians on this year's 'Honor Flight.' These guardians have selflessly given their time to travel alongside our veterans all the way from Princeton, West Virginia to Washington, D.C. to share this very special journey with them.

I also commend those in the 'Always Free Honor Flight' Network for their dedication to providing our Veterans with such a unique and meaningful experience. Without the diligence and passion of Dreama Denver, President of 'Always Free Honor Flight' Network and owner of Princeton, West Virginia's Little Buddy Radio, as well as Pam Coulbourne, the coordinator of these flights, many of our Veterans would never have the opportunity to travel to Washington and pay homage to the men and women they fought beside. Dreama and Pam launched the 'Always Free Honor Flight' in 2012 and every year, they continue to make this dream a reality for many of our West Virginia Veterans.

I'd also like to recognize Sergeant First Class Paul Dorsey, Vice President of Always Free Honor Flight and Official Photographer Steve Coleman, who have done a tremendous job of ensuring that our Veterans receive the recognition they deserve. Dreama, Pam, and Steve have also dedicated themselves to the Denver Foundation, serving as incredible examples of how individuals can give back to their communities.

I am filled with pride every time I meet the patriots who have served our country, and I am so pleased to welcome West Virginia's most courageous veterans, who are all heroes, to Washington, D.C. I encourage all of my colleagues to join me in saluting them. They truly inspire us all as we are reminded of their selfless service. It is because of their bravery that all Americans enjoy the greatest liberties and freedoms in the world.

God bless all our servicemembers and veterans, God bless the great State of West Virginia, and God bless the United States of America.●

RECOGNIZING SUNDANCE CONSULTING, INC.

● Mr. RISCH. Madam President, Idaho is known for its rolling foothills, crystal clear rivers and streams, and of course some exquisite mountains. Idahoans embrace these treasures across our State and are committed to keeping these natural resources pristine for the next generation. This commitment to maintaining our public lands contributes to an abundance of innovation and creativity in the natural resources space in my home State. As chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, it is my distinct pleasure to recognize Sundance Consulting, Inc., as the Small Business of the Month for May 2018. Sundance Consulting, Inc.'s work on important environmental and natural resource-related issues exemplifies Idaho's entrepreneurial spirit and stewardship of our environment.

After 19 years of working for the Native American Lands Environmental Mitigation Program as a consultant focused on addressing environmental problems related to previous Department of Defense activities, September Myres founded Sundance Consulting, Inc., in 2005. She founded Sundance with a vision to provide solutions to the environmental challenges faced by Native Americans and Native Alaskans alike. Raised on the Fort Hall Indian Reservation in Idaho, Ms. Myres has a keen understanding of the unique environmental issues that tribes face. With her background and experience in Tribal lands, Ms. Myres is uniquely positioned to implement innovative solutions to ongoing environmental problems in these communities. Among the solutions that September provides are general consulting services, environmental site assessments, site investigations, radioactive waste retrieval, process optimization, and soil and water sampling, all of which help clients understand the environment they are working in and ways to mitigate any potentially harmful activities.

Under Ms. Myres' exceptional leadership, Sundance Consulting has grown from a sole proprietorship to a firm of more than 50 employees. The company is headquartered in Pocatello, ID, with eight satellite offices across the Nation. From 2011 to 2016, Sundance in-

creased their revenue by \$10 million and hired an additional 50 employees. The firm's continued growth has been a product of its growing client base. From its original focus on tribal clients to today's diverse portfolio of Federal, State, and commercial clients, Sundance prides itself on delivering quality advice and planning services on-time and under budget, while protecting the environment. Over time, the company has expanded its offerings to include public outreach and liaison services that help to build consensus and increase public participation in the planning of client projects. Over its 13 years in business Sundance has earned a reputation of excellence in their field by bringing diverse organizations together to create environmental solutions.

In 2008, Sundance began utilizing the SBA 8(a) Business Development Program, a 9-year certification program that helps small, disadvantaged businesses compete for government contracts. The program provided Ms. Myres with the tools and knowledge required to grow her business. Sundance's success has allowed the company to give back to their local community in Idaho. Every year, the company provides school supplies and backpacks to children in need, through a charity drive in Chubbuck, ID. Additionally, Sundance provides scholarships to Native American students going in to the science, technology, engineering, or mathematics fields.

The company's high standards and good reputation have led to recognition from the environmental and small business communities. The Environmental Business Journal noted Sundance's incredible growth and economic success in environmental consulting. In 2016, the Journal awarded Sundance the 19th Annual Small Firms Award for Achievement. Due to her success as an entrepreneur and her commitment to environmental preservation, the Small Business Administration honored Ms. Myres as the 2018 Idaho Small Business Person of the Year during National Small Business Week for demonstrating growth, innovation, and perseverance in the face of adversity.

Innovation, growth, and commitment to quality are the hallmarks of Sundance Consulting's success. The company's continual commitment to helping communities exemplifies how small businesses are in a unique position to make a profit and make a difference. Sundance is a true inspiration to innovators and small businesses across the Nation for their incredible success. I would like to extend my sincerest congratulations to September Myres and all of the employees at Sundance Consulting, Inc., for being selected as the May 2018 Small Business of the Month. You make our great State of Idaho proud, and I look forward to watching your continued growth and success.●

TRIBUTE TO HEATHER ANDERSON

● Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I honor Heather Anderson, the Manatee County Teacher of the Year from Martha B. King Middle School in Bradenton, FL.

Heather credits her students as the reason why she was named Teacher of the Year. During the award ceremony, she noted that they keep her going every day and thanked them for giving her purpose and meaning. Everything she does is for her students, and she cannot wait to see what the future holds for them.

Heather wanted to be a teacher since she was a child and said this award is one of the most rewarding parts of her career. For students who enter her classroom, she has committed herself to positively contributing to their lives, promises to value and treat them with respect, hold the highest standard for herself and students, and monitor and adjust her work to ensure they are prepared for their educational future.

In her classroom, students are able to use tablets to learn and conduct research for their assignments. These tablets were not provided by the school, but through a fundraiser she put together. She is dedicated to seeing each and every one of her students succeed in school and in life.

Heather is an English I honors and language arts teacher at King Middle School. She serves as chair of the language arts department and has been a teacher for 18 years.

I extend my appreciation to Heather for her hard work and dedication to her students and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO CATELYN BOZE

● Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I honor Catelyn Boze, the Putnam County Teacher of the Year from Q.I. Roberts Junior-Senior High School in Florahome, FL.

Catelyn received this important recognition because of her ability to encourage students from all ranges. She challenges the gifted students and helps motivate those who struggle. This dedication to her students resulted in many striving to produce work that will make her proud.

Catelyn's success is built on three components. According to her, a large portion of teaching is relational. When students know their teacher cares about them, they are more open to learning. She demonstrates this to her students by setting high expectations and not allowing them to become unengaged. The second component is Catelyn's creativity and deep content knowledge. This allows her to create questions that challenge her students to think critically. The third component of her success are two initiatives she designed in the past 2 years: student choice and nonzero grading. Catelyn believes that a student who receives a zero for an assignment does