

When he got in, he started to look at ways to implement that. Then the Senate reacted. You have long-term strategic interests represented by this body, and a very famous Senator of the President's own party—Jimmy Carter was a Democrat, and Senator Scoop Jackson of Washington State was a well-known Senator and well-known foreign policy national security expert. He led a delegation of Senators to South Korea. They looked at this issue in detail after President Carter was elected. They came back to Washington after this trip, and they said: It is not a good idea to remove our forces, which have kept the peace on the Korean Peninsula since 1953. We don't think this is a good idea.

The story goes that Scoop Jackson actually went to the White House, talked to President Carter, and said: The Senate is going to oppose this. You are going to have a hard time removing these troops.

So we have a role to play here; we have had a role to play here; and we have played this role.

I want to end with one final anecdote from that trip. The Senate Navy liaison officer who helped lead that delegation of Senators in the late 1970s to South Korea was a Navy captain by the name of JOHN MCCAIN. Yes, that is right; the JOHN MCCAIN whom I mentioned we are all praying for, and by the way, we named this bill after him. This is the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act. The current chairman of the Armed Services Committee who wrote this bill was on that trip as a captain in the U.S. Navy. I think that historical fact makes this provision in the current bill we are debating now, the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act, even more powerful.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I was unable to appear in the Chamber today to vote on the nomination of Kenneth L. Marcus, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights at the Department of Education due to official business away from the Senate. I

would like the record to show that I oppose his nomination and would have voted against his confirmation.

Throughout his confirmation process and career, Mr. Marcus has demonstrated consistent disregard for the rights of the very students he would be expected to protect in this role: women, LGBTQ individuals immigrants, and students of color. It is clear that Mr. Marcus is in lockstep with the Department of Education in this regard. He has supported the Department's decision to dismantle critical title IX protections for survivors of sexual assault, stood in the way of LGBTQ students seeking an educational atmosphere free from discrimination, and refused to commit to protecting a child's constitutional right to an education regardless of immigration status.

Mr. Marcus has made abundantly clear that he is unfit to serve as the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights at the Department of Education. I would like the record to show that I oppose his nomination and would have voted nay during today's confirmation vote.

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

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent for vote No. 118 on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 603, the nomination of Kenneth L. Marcus, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Department of Education. On vote No. 118, had I been present, I would have voted nay on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 603.●

TAX REFORM

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, as you may know, I supported the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act that became law in December of last year. We hear stories every day of the positive impact this law has had on the economy at large and in the lives of Americans who are seeing more money in their paycheck. What we don't hear are enough stories about the small businesses that have benefited from this law. As chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I supported this legislation because I believed that it would spark investment, increase economic growth, and reduce taxes for millions of small businesses whose work ethic and perseverance shows that the American Dream is still possible. I also saw the potential that the legislation would have, not just to help small business owners and their employees in my home State of Idaho, but to positively affect small businesses across the country. A couple of weeks ago, I began this series of speeches highlighting small businesses that have benefited from this legislation.

While there are numerous stories about the benefits of tax reform, I rise

today to talk about the story of the Don Ramon Restaurante Cubano and Social Club located in West Palm Beach, FL. Dina and Juan Rubio are the operators of this successful restaurant that offers traditional and affordable Cuban dishes in charming surroundings. Don Ramon Restaurant also offers catering services, provides live music, and hosts private events. Often, Juan will take the stage with his keyboard and entertain patrons with his rollicking renditions of traditional Cuban dances such as the salsa, son, and guaracha. This dedication to an authentic Cuban experience over the last 27 years is what has made this restaurant a popular culinary destination and landmark for people all over south Florida.

From Cuba and Nicaragua respectively, Dina and Juan appreciate the opportunities afforded everyone by the American Dream and have worked hard to realize their goal of becoming successful entrepreneurs. New tax law changes implemented under the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act have allowed Dina and Juan Rubio to give their employees pay increases and larger holiday bonuses than normal. This law has also allowed them to begin planning capital improvements for their restaurant. They are planning to renovate their restaurant, open a take-out window, install new refrigerators and coffee machines, and hire up to eight new employees. Stories like the Rubio's demonstrate the benefits that tax reform has already had on numerous small businesses. Overall, it can be said that tax reform was a worthy goal that has increased small businesses' optimism, employee bonuses and wages, lowered taxes, and driven new capital investment.

REMEMBERING EMMETT PUGH III

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I wish to acknowledge the recent loss of one of West Virginia's best and brightest and recognize the life of a good man, kind friend, and dedicated public servant, Emmett Pugh III.

Emmett was widely known for his accomplishments as the city of Beckley's longest serving mayor, and while his positive impact on the city was immeasurable, Emmett was the sort of person who had a positive impact on the lives of everyone he met. Countless people benefited from the work, words, and kindness of Emmett Pugh throughout his life.

Emmett was a native son of Beckley, WV, and came from a long tradition of public service that followed him to the University of Alabama. While at Alabama, he cultivated a deep love for two things: the Crimson Tide and his hometown. After earning a degree in political science, with a focus on State and local government, Emmett returned home to serve as the president of Bowl-Wick, Inc., a bowling center that brought joy and entertainment to the citizens of Beckley for many years.

In 1979, Emmett began his long career in public service as a councilman-at-large. In 1988, upon the death of the current mayor, Emmett stepped up and began his tenure as the longest serving mayor in Beckley's history. During his time in office, he expanded city limits, led a razing campaign on deteriorated properties, and established two new fire stations. He also helped lead the development of the Beckley Intermodal Gateway, the Rahall Company Store at New River Park, Thornhill Courts, Freedom Park, Jim Word Memorial Park, and the Lewis McManus Trail, among other accomplishments. In 1988, he was named Mayor of the Year for his efforts.

When Mayor Pugh left office in 2013, his positive impact on the community and State did not stop. He continued to inspire all whom he encountered and acted as a mentor to his successors and any who sought his advice. He also continued in his role as a family man, and he is survived by his wife, their three children, two step-children, and eight grandchildren. Emmett's passion for Beckley and West Virginia lives on, and I think I speak for many when I say that he will be sorely missed.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING RED SCHOENDIENST

• Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Red Schoendienst, who in passing leaves behind a lifetime of commitment to baseball, the St. Louis Cardinals, and the St. Louis community.

Red Schoendienst began his major league career with the St. Louis Cardinals in 1945, after spending only 2 years with the Albany Cardinals, the franchise's minor league affiliate. His star rose quickly within the franchise and the league, winning the 1946 Home Run Derby and, in the same year, participating in the Cardinals' World Series victory over the Sox.

In his 19 seasons as a player, Red compiled a storied list of accomplishments, including being named to 10 All Star teams, but his contributions to the sport did not end when he retired his bat. He would return to the Cardinals as a coach in 1964 and managed the team from 1965–1976. He led the team to multiple World Series victories and National League pennants, and he was named National League manager of the year in both 1967 and 1968. After 2 years coaching the Oakland Athletics, he returned to the Cardinals to coach from 1977–1995. For the next two decades, Schoendienst would wear the Cardinals "Birds on the Bat" before home games and in spring training as a special assistant to the general manager.

Red Schoendienst was one of the greatest Cardinals of all time, having been a Red Bird as a player, coach, and manager. The Cardinals retired his No.

2 in 1996. St. Louis recognized him with his induction into the St. Louis Walk of Fame in 1998. His legacy was not only engrained in the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame in 1989, but also in the memories of teammates, colleagues, and fans who had the privilege of seeing his accomplishments and his great smile.

To quote the Schoendienst family upon his passing: "He inspired all that knew him to always do their best. Red was a great ball player, but his legacy is that of a great gentleman who had respect for all. He loved his family, friends, teammates, the community and his country. He will be greatly missed."

To Red Schoendienst's family, thank you for sharing him with the St. Louis Cardinals, St. Louis community, baseball, and baseball fans. Red Schoendienst was a great gentleman, a great sportsman, a great competitor, and he will be greatly missed.●

TRIBUTE TO GARY DENT

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week I have the honor of recognizing Gary Dent of Pondera County for his over 42 years of service in law enforcement.

Gary Dent was born and raised in Miles City. After high school and college, Gary discussed entering the police force with a family friend, and from there, he began his career in law enforcement. After 11 years of serving around Montana, he landed in the Conrad City Police Department where he spent over 30 years as their police chief. He and his wife have one son named GR.

Gary's passion for his job is clear; yet it is his passion for the community that sets him apart. While serving as police chief, he filled his spare time by serving Conrad in any way he could, including by spending time coaching middle school and high school sports teams.

Gary's legacy in the Conrad City Police Department will survive long after his retirement. His favorite part of serving in law enforcement was the interaction with folks in the community, and that did not go unnoticed. He impacted many around Conrad and the greater Pondera County community. I congratulate Gary on a career well spent, and I wish him the best of luck in retirement.●

REMEMBERING ERIC ENGLAND

• Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, it is an honor today to pay my final respects to Eric Roy England, a great Georgian and American, who passed away on April 7, 2018, after a lifetime of service to our State and Nation.

Eric England was born on April 15, 1933, in Blairsville, GA, in Union County, the son of the late Augustus and Mary Nix England. A few short years later, in 1950, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps, and his extraordinary career was launched.

MSgt Eric England served as a scout sniper for the U.S. Marine Corps 3rd Marine Division while serving in the Vietnam war. He is credited with 98 confirmed kills on record, likely saving untold numbers of American lives. By age 19, he was a national rifle-shooting champion, and he set a record as a long-range champion at Fort Benning in 1968. Master Sergeant England served as a member and coach of the U.S. Marine Corps Rifle Team for 24 years, setting records both nationally and internationally.

After his military retirement and for the next 14 years, Master Sergeant England coached the Blairsville 4-H program's BB gun team, which was comprised of boys and girls in grades four through eight. These young Georgians benefited from his exemplary leadership and dedicated training and by winning competitions at the State and national level.

During his life, his talents were recognize and celebrated. They even made him the subject of a book, "Phantom of Phu Bai," written by Dr. J. B. Turner, and his military rifle is displayed in the National Rifle Association museum. The courthouse in Union County, GA, features a bronze sculpture in England's likeness that was erected in 2006.

On November 4, 2017, Master Sergeant England was one of 17 veterans inducted into the Georgia Military Veterans Hall of Fame for his outstanding achievement while serving his country. Other notable Hall of Fame inductees are Master Sergeant England's cousin, our former U.S. Senator and Georgia Governor Zell Miller, and former U.S. Senator Sam Nunn.

MSgt Eric England was interred at Arlington National Cemetery on June 4, 2018, with full military honors.

I send my condolences to his wife, Glenda Sue Berrong England, his stepson, Howard Beck, Jr., his sister, Edna Ruth Rich, and to his niece, nephew, grandchildren, and other friends and love ones.

I am very proud to share a bit of MSgt Eric England's story for the Record, to honor this great patriot and help more Georgians and Americans learn of his great legacy for our country.●

TRIBUTE TO STEPHANIE BELLINO

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I am pleased to recognize Stephanie Bellino, the Duval County Teacher of the Year from Garden City Elementary School in Jacksonville, FL.

Stephanie was named Teacher of the Year for successfully pushing a growing number of disadvantaged students to achieve grade-level performance or better in reading and language arts. She helps students by taking scripted lesson plans and adapting them to fit each of their individual needs. Stephanie is credited with helping Garden City improve from a D to a B school.

While teachers typically stay at one grade level, Stephanie loops with her