

mulch for landscapers, and sawdust for alternative fuel use. The company employs about 80 to 100 workers and has an extensive sawmill and dry kiln operation. Ronny Dempsey started the company in 1988 and has spent all of his life around the lumber industry. His father, Charles Parker Dempsey, worked in various sawmills over the course of his career and eventually was the co-owner of a sawmill that he later sold. Today Parker Dempsey, a third-generation sawmill operator, has taken over as president, though his father, Ronny, is still by his side as vice president of the company.

This family-owned small business has already benefitted greatly from the tax law that was passed last year. They have announced plans to upgrade their sawmill, purchase a new dry kiln, and invest in a new planer mill over the next 5 years. They expect the capital expenditure to total \$7 million and estimate that they could add a second shift in the near future, thereby creating new jobs in the Orangeburg community. These investments were viable for the company due to the accelerated depreciation provisions contained in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. This section of the law allows companies to deduct the value of any new equipment purchased in a single year, instead of over several years. Tax reform has had a material impact on small businesses like Dempsey Wood Products and their employees. Overall, the new law has increased small businesses' confidence, employee bonuses and wages, while lowering taxes and spurring new capital investment.

TRIBUTE TO ALAN L. GUNN

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, today, Senator CRAPO and I recognize and congratulate Mr. Alan L. Gunn on his upcoming retirement from the U.S. Department of Energy after more than 40 years of distinguished service in various roles at the U.S. Navy and U.S. Department of Energy.

In 1980, Mr. Gunn received a bachelor of science degree from Mississippi State University and went on to complete graduate work in business administration at Louisiana State University, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, State University of New York at Albany, and Idaho State University.

In February 1982, Mr. Gunn completed the Navy officer candidate school as a distinguished military graduate and was commissioned as a Navy officer. He was selected for duty in the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program and served as both a member of the staff of the Director, Naval Nuclear Propulsion program in Washington, DC, and as a field representative for the director in Schenectady, NY, and Idaho Falls, ID.

In 1996, Mr. Gunn completed the College of Naval Warfare program in residence at the U.S. Naval War College, Newport, RI, and received a master of arts degree in national security and strategic studies.

Since the completion of his Active-Duty service, Mr. Gunn has served as a civilian with the U.S. Department of Energy and the National Nuclear Security Administration in numerous leadership and management positions with the Office of Naval Reactors in Washington, DC, the Idaho branch office of Naval Reactors, the Naval Reactors Laboratory field office, and the Idaho operations office.

In 2007, after completing over 28 years of Active and Reserve military service, Mr. Gunn retired as a captain in the U.S. Navy.

Most recently, Mr. Gunn served as the principal deputy manager for Nuclear Energy and served as the assistant manager for programs and facilities at the Department of Energy's Idaho Operations Office, DOE-ID. In his current capacity, he provides exceptional leadership for DOE-ID's nuclear programs and Idaho facilities management divisions, national security programs, the Radiological and Environmental Science Laboratory, and the Office of Project Management project.

Mr. Gunn's organization is responsible for oversight of the Idaho National Laboratory, INL, and other contractor performance on nuclear energy, education, national security, and other research and development projects and programs, including strategic partnership projects and the INL laboratory directed research and development programs; as well as facility and infrastructure operations, maintenance, planning, and other activities associated with facility and infrastructure operations at the INL. Mr. Gunn also provides direct support to the specific manufacturing capability, SMC, project that includes the oversight of the maintenance and operations of the SMC facilities, as well as the programmatic oversight of the armor production.

Through his years of dedicated service, Mr. Gunn exemplifies the best qualities of Idaho. Senator CRAPO and I want to thank Alan for his service and wish him well in all of his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO DENNIS E. FRYE

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I wish to recognize a dedicated public servant and proud student of West Virginian and American history, Dennis E. Frye, on the occasion of his retirement from the National Park Service. Innumerable visitors to Harpers Ferry National Historical Park benefited from his wealth of knowledge and notorious performances that brought history to life.

As Dennis tells it, at a young age, he wanted to be either a historian or an astronaut. Once he found out that becoming an astronaut entails being very good at math, he decided history was the way to go. He studied at what was then Shepherd College in Shepherdstown, WV, while volunteering at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, becoming a park ranger

in 1977. Eschewing the traditional route of advancement in the National Park Service through moving from park to park, Dennis stayed put and advanced within the park, and set about the task of changing perceptions of Harpers Ferry in the Civil War history community.

As staff historian and later chief historian at the park and through his work in various historical societies concerned with the Civil War, Dennis emphasized the importance of Harpers Ferry to the history of the Civil War. Thanks, in large part, to his efforts, the Battle of Harpers Ferry and the importance of the town in the history of America are better recognized by the historical community, of which he is a vocal member. Indeed, Dennis's dedication to his passion as an advocate and student of history is apparent from the 10-year sabbatical he took to focus on writing historical works and to serve as president of the Civil War Trust, an organization dedicated to the preservation of Civil War battlefields. He is also a recipient of the Shelby Foote Award from the Civil War Trust, the National Park Service's Freeman Tilden Award for excellence in interpretation and education, and the Nevins-Freeman Award for outstanding contributions to the study of the Civil War.

Dennis later returned as chief historian of Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, where his work of inspiring and educating visitors, including my staff and myself, through meticulous detail and dramatic performances continued to the present day. If the job of a historian is to both impart knowledge and ensure the lessons of history remain with us, then Dennis Frye is a master in his field.

No one who knows him doubts that Dennis E. Frye will continue to be a forceful advocate for his passions in retirement, which includes being an ardent fan of the Boston Red Sox. I believe I speak for many when I say that I sincerely appreciate his public service and the contributions he has made to a better understanding of the history of West Virginia and America. I am proud to call him a friend, and I wish him well in his future pursuits.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO ROCKY BARKER

• Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Rocky Barker for his extensive career as an Idaho journalist.

Rocky is retiring from the Idaho Statesman where he worked as an environmental reporter-blogger-columnist for the past 22 years. Prior to his position at the Statesman, Rocky was a columnist and correspondent-at-large for the Post Register in Idaho Falls. He has also written and contributed to numerous books, created an Idaho news website, and received many awards and recognitions for his reporting.

Over his more than 30-year career, Rocky has reported comprehensively

on issues that matter deeply to Idaho. He has dug into pressing and often controversial issues, including reporting on water, public lands, fish and wildlife habitat, fires, and other related matters that no doubt have required considerable resolve. Throughout, his devotion to reporting and his deep respect for the importance of a free press to our system of governance has remained unwavering.

Congratulations, Rocky, on your years of writing. "Litera scripta manet," meaning the written word endures, is among the inscriptions in the Library of Congress. You can go onto the next chapter of your career and life knowing that you have been an important part of taking down that written word for our great State for decades. Thank you for your devotion to and deep personal interest in chronicling issues that matter greatly for Idahoans. I wish you and your wife, Tina, all the best in your retirement and much happiness in the years ahead.●

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF GORHAM SAVINGS BANK

● Mr. KING. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 150th anniversary of Gorham Savings Bank, a notable leader of financial services and community engagement in southern Maine. As the only bank headquartered in Cumberland County, Gorham Savings Bank's impressive, locally based economic focus allows the institution to serve as a source of strength for the community.

Founded in February of 1868, Gorham Savings Bank was established by the Maine State Legislature under its first president, Captain Toppan Robie. A few weeks later, the bank began business when the first deposit of 10 cents was made. Over the years, the bank has expanded to multiple locations across southern Maine, incorporating new financial services to meet the expanding needs of its customers. In 1998, during my time as Governor, I attended the opening of the bank's operations center in Gorham, ME, and hosted the ribbon-cutting ceremony. Across its branch locations, Gorham Savings Bank provides a variety of banking services to its customers, including resources for personal and business accounts. Through online banking services, customers have the tools they need to manage their money at their convenience. Today, Gorham Savings Bank has surpassed the \$1 billion mark in assets, and last year, the bank began the restoration of the historic Grand Trunk Railway Company Building in Portland, ME, as a new office space. With over 200 employees across 13 locations, the community bank is an important employer in the region.

In addition to serving their customers, Gorham Savings Bank supports the prosperity and growth of the surrounding communities. First, the bank promotes a number of financial literacy programs, including ones for

tax preparation and another geared towards high school students. In the education field, Gorham Savings Bank participates in job-shadowing programs and contributes to scholarship opportunities for individuals looking to further their education. Gorham Savings Bank also supports the growth of local business and hosts an annual Launchpad small business competition, where five Maine entrepreneurial businesses compete for \$50,000 for business development. Thanks to the teamwork of the bank's employees, Gorham Savings Bank has led efforts to fundraise for nonprofit organizations, including the Boys and Girls Club and United Way.

I applaud Gorham Savings Bank on their achievements over the past 150 years and look forward to their continued success as a force for good for the State of Maine.●

REMEMBERING ANDREW RAMOTNIK

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I commemorate the life of Andrew Ramotnik, a retired veteran from Jacksonville, FL, who recently passed away.

Andy Ramotnik grew up in Pennsylvania coal country. Two weeks after the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, at the age of 18, he enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps. In 1943, after basic and radio operator training, he was assigned to a B-25 medium bomber squadron based in the north African desert.

On his 43rd bombing mission, Andy's bomber was shot down over Italy, and he was captured. Andy was a prisoner of war in Stalag 17B for 19 months in Austria. In April 1945, he escaped, was recaptured, and escaped a second time. For 13 days, Andy and a fellow POW evaded capture. He was evading the enemy when the war ended in May 1945 and had to find his way to friendly troops. Andy met up with American troops and was granted leave and returned to service. After his return, Andy received a letter from the War Department and a check compensating him \$1 for every day he was a POW. The check was for \$554.

It was the rest of the letter that led to my knowing Andy and his incredible story. While the check he received was for \$554, Andy had actually been a POW for 567 days. However, for 13 of those days, Andy was evading capture while hiding from the Germans in the Austrian countryside. The Army does not pay soldiers when they are evading capture, so the Army docked Andy \$13 for the days he had escaped.

Now, Andy did not need the \$13. It was not the money but rather the principle. He had done what was expected of him and what was prescribed in the Armed Services Code of Conduct. He had escaped, and the Army was docking him for it. So when I met Andy more than 60 years later, he still had that \$13 on his mind. He told me his story of the bombing missions, of his plane being shot down, and the struggle

to get the door open so he and another soldier could parachute out. He told me about the POW camp, hiding in a cave during his first escape, and hiding at an Austrian farm during his second. He also told me how foolish he thought it was that the Army docked his pay for doing what he was supposed to do.

My office looked into it. Unfortunately, it is a longstanding policy not to pay soldiers evading capture and an issue not easily remedied. Unfortunately, we could not get Andy his \$13.

So, with his passing, I would like to recognize the life of Andy Ramotnik and thank him for his service. On principle, I think we still owe him \$13. It is a small cost to pay for an 18-year-old boy standing up to help stop the spread of tyranny and preserving the free world.●

TRIBUTE TO JAHA DUKUREH

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Jaha Dukureh for her Nobel Peace Prize nomination.

A recent graduate of the University of Central Florida, Jaha was named one of TIME magazine's "100 Most Influential People in the World" in 2016 and has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize this year for her work to end female genital mutilation, FMG. She was born in The Gambia, a small west African country, and was subjected to female genital mutilation when she was just one week old.

A documentary produced by the Guardian called "The Girl Who Said No to FGM" was made about her story. It details how her identity was stripped again when she was forced into an arranged marriage at the age of 15 in New York City and was cut for a second time.

Since beginning her activism, Jaha helped usher in the ban of female genital mutilation in The Gambia. It is estimated that, by the age of 14, nearly 56 percent of girls in The Gambia were subjected to FMG. She is also the first person to have been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize from The Gambia.

Jaha earned her bachelor's degree in business administration management at Georgia Southwestern State University in 2013. She graduated with her master's degree in nonprofit management from the University of Central Florida in 2018.

I am honored to express my sincere gratitude to Jaha for her extraordinary leadership to end this horror and look forward to hearing of her continued work in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO DONALD ESLINGER

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I honor Donald Eslinger, the former Seminole County sheriff, for his induction into the Law Enforcement Officers' Hall of Fame.

Sheriff Eslinger's law enforcement career began in 1978 as a radio dispatcher for the department. He subsequently rose through the ranks, leading in various roles at the department