

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

until his appointment as sheriff in 1991 and election to the position the next year. He served the community as sheriff for 25 years, retiring in 2017. Throughout his tenure, Sheriff Eslinger focused on mental health advocacy, crime reduction, and is responsible for the Kids House, Shop with the Sheriff, and Christmas Village programs.

Sheriff Eslinger was nominated by law enforcement leaders to be inducted into the Florida Law Enforcement Officer's Hall of Fame. His induction was approved by Governor Rick Scott and the State cabinet. At his induction ceremony, Sheriff Eslinger noted protecting the most vulnerable in the community was at the core of the Seminole County Sheriff's Office under his leadership.

Sheriff Eslinger earned his bachelor's degree from National Louis University and graduated from the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy in Virginia. He and his wife, Elise, have four children.

I express my sincere gratitude to Sheriff Eslinger for his dedication to serving the community with the Seminole County Sheriff's Office, and I wish him the very best in his retirement.●

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS PATTERSON MANEY

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Judge Thomas Patterson Maney, who has served his Nation honorably and is retiring.

Judge Maney served our Nation in the Army Reserve for almost 37 years, including 8 years of Active Duty, serving in Panama, Haiti, Bosnia, and Afghanistan. As a major and lieutenant colonel, he worked with the military group at the U.S. Embassy in Panama, training the Guardia Nacional/Panama Defense Force in civil affairs and civic action. He commanded a reserve civil affairs brigade in Maryland, as well as the 350th Civil Affairs Command in Pensacola, and later served as the deputy commander of the Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command and deputy commandant of the John F. Kennedy Special Operations School at Fort Bragg. He is the recipient of the Purple Heart and retired as an Army brigadier general in 2007.

Judge Maney was appointed Okaloosa County court judge by Governor Bob Martinez and assumed the bench on June 5, 1989. He was elected to the position in 1990 and was subsequently re-elected each time he was on the ballot. During his time as a circuit court judge, he served as a juvenile dependency judge, child support judge, and served as the Baker Act/Marchman Act judge for nearly a decade. Judge Maney shares his passion and expertise of the law with colleagues across the district and the State of Florida, delivering educational presentations for the Conference of County Court Judges and the Advanced Judicial College. He also started the Okaloosa Mental Health

Court and the Okaloosa Veterans Treatment Court. The act establishing the Okaloosa Veterans Treatment Court was named the T. Patt Maney Veterans Treatment Court Act in his honor.

Judge Maney was born in Lexington, KY, and is a graduate of the University of Kentucky, the University of Louisville College of Law, Troy State University, and the Army War College. He has been married to his wife, Caroline, for almost 47 years, and they have two daughters and six grandchildren. He is also a member of the Sons of the American Revolution.

I thank Judge Maney for a lifetime of devotion to serving our Nation both overseas and on the bench. I extend my best wishes to him and his family on his well-earned retirement.●

TRIBUTE TO JAMES WEIR

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Mr. James Weir with respect for his service and accomplishments as he turns 93 years old this month. Jim, as his friends refer to him, or Pap-pap, as he is known by his family, grew up in Mount Pleasant, PA, not far from Pittsburgh. Inducted into the U.S. Navy on August of 1943, Jim went to war on behalf of this Nation, fighting in Europe and Asia. On June 6, 1944, Coxswain Weir crossed the English Channel aboard a LCT(A) to deliver tanks and troops onto the beaches of Normandy. After the battle was won in Europe, Jim fought in the liberation of the Philippines and was stationed in Japan as part of the occupational forces after the war.

In between those pivotal moments, Jim received a 20-day leave after D-Day. He rushed back to the States to marry his sweetheart, Laverne Myers. They had been sweethearts since he had sat behind her in sixth grade, but Laverne was only 17 and Jim's leave was short. He loved Laverne, and she loved him. They quickly left Pennsylvania for Alabama, where they tied the knot before he had to return to the war. They remained in love for 73 years of marriage.

After the war, he worked as a master electrician and was a renowned Corvette racer, leading the national Corvette club as its president. Jim now lives in Miami, FL, where he has two granddaughters and six great-grandchildren who love him dearly.

In honor of his 93rd birthday, for his service to our great Nation and his love for his family and community, I would like to recognize my friend Jim Weir and look forward to seeing him on his 94th birthday this time next year.●

TRIBUTE TO STEVE FORRESTER

● Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, today I want to honor longtime Oregon journalist Steve Forrester.

Steve has retired as editor and publisher of the Daily Astorian. He will remain president and chief executive offi-

cer of the EO Media Group, which owns the Astorian, as well as several other newspapers, including publications in eastern Oregon, but we will no longer benefit from his day-to-day leadership at the Astorian.

I have known Steve for nearly 40 years, since he was a reporter in Washington, DC, and I was a young Member of the House. In all that time, Steve has never hesitated to ask the tough questions and to be fiercely devoted to local journalism's principles and importance. The theme running consistently throughout Steve's career has been always to ensure local readers understand the impact of decisions and policies made in Congress, the statehouse, and city hall.

I particularly wanted to honor Steve today because, over the Fourth of July recess, I will be home in Oregon highlighting the foundational freedoms of the First Amendment with events celebrating those freedoms of religion, speech, assembly, and the press.

The Founding Fathers knew those First Amendment freedoms were core to our country and to creating the values that have made America a destination for all who hunger to be free of fear and liberated to pursue their dreams. As the child of parents who fled the Nazis for refuge in the United States, I learned early on about the importance of these freedoms. As the son of a reporter, I also learned especially about the importance of the freedom of the press.

Because Steve has contributed so much to a vibrant and free press in our great State of Oregon, I will be proud to present him on July 1, in Astoria, with a "Go Fourth" award. Steve's career makes him richly deserving of this award and an inspiration for Oregon journalists for generations to come.

I suspect Steve will exercise his self-deprecating modesty and question why he is worthy of such attention. I know Steve would much rather shine the spotlight on others, but the bottom line is I want Oregon to recognize his enormous and long-lasting contributions to making our State a better place to live and to making all of us as Oregonians better-informed citizens.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Cuccia, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and withdrawals which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)