

stand here today to applaud my dear friend and to honor her legacy.●

#### TRIBUTE TO JOEL WERNICK

● Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, it is an honor to rise on behalf of Senator DAVID PERDUE and myself to offer our congratulations on a job well done to Joel Wernick, a fine Georgian and the longtime president and chief executive officer of Phoebe Putney Health System in Albany, GA.

Under Joel's tireless leadership for the last 30 years, Phoebe Putney Health System has become a major regional healthcare provider. The Phoebe Putney Health System now includes Phoebe Sumter Medical Center, Phoebe Worth Medical Center, more than 15 primary and urgent care clinics, and nearly 30 specialty care clinics in counties throughout southwest Georgia.

As the health system has grown under Joel's guidance, it has become a major contributor to the entire region's economy. Today more than 4,500 people work under the Phoebe Putney umbrella, where they strive to improve the lives of Georgians from middle Georgia all the way south to the Georgia-Florida line.

Joel Wernick had the vision to grow Phoebe Putney's suite of services and provide comprehensive healthcare including world-class oncology, cardiovascular, and neonatal intensive care unit services in the southwest Georgia region. This increase in quality specialty services greatly benefits area residents who no longer have to travel extensive distances to receive care.

I also thank the board of directors and staff who have shared and supported this great leader's dedication to the people of Albany and the surrounding communities.

During Joel's tenure, Phoebe Putney has received State and national recognition, including the American Hospital Association's NOVA Award for teen pregnancy prevention and the prestigious Foster G. McGaw Prize for excellence in healthcare. Joel was a pioneer in making "upstream contributions" in community health programs over the years to reduce the cost and occurrence of disease and poor health before they reached the hospital setting.

In starting the Phoebe Family Medicine Residency Program, Joel has also appreciated the importance of healthcare for the family unit and the importance of training medical professionals in southwest Georgia and incentivizing them to remain there. Phoebe Putney's teaching hospital has graduated more than 120 residents, and Joel's investment in Flagstone, the housing that supports those residents and pharmacy students, has successfully kept doctors practicing in southwest Georgia rather than departing for larger cities.

Joel has helped keep the "golden rule" culture and the charm of south Georgia as guiding principles during

his tenure at Phoebe Putney, and for that, many have benefited and are grateful.

As Georgia's Senators, we are thankful for Joel's service and wish him well as he enters the next chapter of his life. May God bless him in his future pursuits.●

#### REMEMBERING ROY H. MADSEN

● Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, many Alaskans have contributed enormously to the development of the Territory of Alaska through Statehood and beyond with their special life skills, talents, courage, and insights into the world around them. Among that distinguished group was a very special man, Roy H. Madsen of Kodiak, AK. Roy Madsen was known for so many things. Among them, he was the first Alaska Native to serve as a judge of the Alaska Superior Court. On the eve of the Alaska Federation of Natives convention, I proudly honor his remarkable life that spanned 94 years from March 15, 1923 to December 26, 2017.

Roy was born in the village of Kanatak, located just across Shelikoff Straits from the Kodiak archipelago near the Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes and Mount Katmai in the Katmai National Monument on the Alaskan Peninsula, an area which, in 1980, was expanded and renamed the Katmai National Park and Preserve.

Roy was one of eight children. His father, Charles Madsen, was a Danish immigrant who established a trading post at Kanatak. His mother, Alaska Native Mary (Metrokin) was a homemaker. The Madsens returned to his mother's hometown of Kodiak where, when Roy was only 4 years old, she passed. Roy and his siblings were raised in Kodiak by their dad and their stepmother, Alexandra Churnoff Madsen. Roy's love for his heritage and for the island remained centerpieces throughout his life. A member of the Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak, he lived there for most of his life.

Blessed with his mother's rich, Alaska Native Sugpiaq-Koniagmiut-Alutiiq-Russian subsistence culture and fortified by his father's immigrant mindset of courage and ambition, Roy lived his life setting goals and pursuing them, most often with success.

After graduating from Kodiak High School in a class of six, he entered Oregon State University in 1941. In 1943, he left college and enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served as a gunner and navigator on Patrol Torpedo Boat PT 190, the "Jack of Diamonds" in the South Pacific during World War II. While serving in the Navy in the Philippines and New Guinea, Roy's unit was awarded campaign medals and two battle stars.

It was after WWII that Roy and his first wife Katharine (Walters) and family moved back to Kodiak in 1946. To support his growing family, he spent a couple of summers fishing in Bristol

Bay on a Columbia River double ender by sail and became a registered Alaska bear guide, working with his father Captain Charles Madsen, guiding clients on Kodiak brown bear hunts.

The Madsens then moved to Oregon, where Roy finished his bachelor's degree and entered Northwestern College of Law, today the Lewis & Clark Law School, where he received his juris doctor degree in 1953. He served as assistant district attorney and practiced law in Oregon before, in 1961, returning with his family to Kodiak. Over the years, the Madsen clan grew to include seven children: Elizabeth, Mary Jane, Charles, Charlotte, Jacqueline, Guy—deceased—stepdaughter Shannon, 13 grandchildren, and 4 great-grand children.

Roy Madsen immersed himself in Kodiak's thriving civic and cultural life. In the 1960s, he established a law firm, was the Kodiak city attorney, and the Kodiak Island Borough attorney. During this period, his commitment to his heritage grew and became legendary. He helped establish the Kodiak Area Native Association KANA, serving as its first vice president. His niece, Rita Stevens, wife of State Senator Gary Stevens, later furthered the work Roy had begun by helping to lead KANA for nearly two decades.

As an attorney and Alaska Native, he contributed his knowledge and experience to efforts within Alaska to achieve a settlement through the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) of Alaska Native aboriginal land claims that resulted from work by many across the State in the enactment of Public Law 93-203 in 1971. He then helped to establish Koniag, Inc., one of the regional Alaska Native Corporations authorized by ANCSA.

It was in 1975 that Roy began service as a Superior Court judge. He served in the State's Third Judicial District, an area of approximately 67,000 square miles, and sat in Kodiak. He served as a judge on that court through 1990.

Judge Madsen continued to serve his beloved island through the decades. After his retirement from the bench, he enjoyed participating in Alaska court system's Colors of Justice Program, promoting acceptance of diversity and encouraging minorities to consider pursuing law as a career. He helped found, was chair of the first advisory board, and was a professor at the Kodiak Community College teaching constitutional, criminal, and business law. After his retirement from the bench, he was appointed to the Alaska State Commission for Human Rights and to the Alaska Supreme Court Committee on Fairness and Access to the Courts.

Roy was counsel for writing the articles of incorporation for and an original board member of St. Herman's Orthodox Theological Seminary, a board member of the Kodiak Baptist Missions Treatment Center for Troubled Youths, and a member of the advisory board of St. Innocent's Orthodox Academy for Troubled Youths. He also served on the

Alaska Rural Systemic Initiative committee which focused on incorporating “Native Ways of Learning” into mainstream education delivery in Alaska. That initiative added a great deal to the recognition and usage of this form of wisdom of the Elders and Native culture in learning delivery in the State.

A mesmerizing storyteller, with deep and broad knowledge as an elder, Roy was a sought after and frequently featured speaker at any number of local events. Among his many honors was Saint Herman’s Cross, bestowed upon him by Bishop Gregory Afonsky. In more recent years, Kodiak’s courthouse was rededicated as the Roy H. Madsen Justice Center.

Not long before his passing, Roy was named Conservation Elder of the Year by the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge for his long dedication to the refuge’s Kodiak brown bear program. In recognition of his lifetime of achievement, the University of Alaska honored him with a doctorate of humanities. The documentary, “Magnetic North,” capturing how his life contributed to the history, spirit, and character of Alaska, premiered in Kodiak and aired on Alaska Public Television during 2017 shortly before his passing.

Roy was equally comfortable in his robes dispensing justice from the court bench as he was in a flannel shirt and worn corduroys at the helm of his skiff, shuttling family to a cabin on Woody Island or helping ferry pilgrims for the annual St. Herman’s Pilgrimage to Monk’s Lagoon or simply picking wild berries and mushrooms in the woods.

He was in his element with an audience, be it 2 or 200 hundred, sharing his stories of nature and human nature. His deep bass voice could fill a room, and his easy smile and laughter were contagious. Roy was manly enough to shed tears of joy or sorrow without embarrassment, to render steady advice, and to dispense his love, help, and friendship to all in need.

When asked for some words of advice, Roy once answered: “For a good quality of life, I believe it is important to have several things: a positive mind, good family relationships, goals you hope to achieve and to be adaptable. Be open to new relationships, never feel too old to learn and always be yourself. Recognize that you are unique. There is only one you.”

He held his most satisfying accomplishments as: “Extending justice and judicial services to rural Alaska—exposing rural Alaskans to Alaska’s judicial system and making them feel included by traveling to them and delivering services in their own communities.”

Linda, his wife of 36 years prior to his passing, perhaps said it best: Roy had “the soul of a poet, the vitality of a fisherman and hunter, measured reason and mental retentiveness of a judge, courage and vision of one committed to making life better for others, and the heart and humanity of a loyal friend.”

This is but a brief overview of the life of Roy Madsen who lived such a pro-

ductive and principled life and who, by his deeds and who he was, represented the apex of what frontier Alaska and America can produce.

It is with the greatest respect that I share with my Senate colleagues and with the American people this short biographical sketch of the life of Roy Madsen, a wonderful Alaskan who served his country in war and peace and his fellow citizens in so many exemplary ways. We all are enriched to know about this great man whose life will be remembered and, hopefully, emulated as a “north star” for those who were fortunate to know him and those who will learn about his remarkable life.●

#### RECOGNIZING WALSH ENGINEERING SERVICES

● Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, Idaho is home to many innovative, ambitious, and industrious small businesses. Today I would like to honor a small business that represents all of these qualities. As chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, it is my distinct privilege to recognize Walsh Engineering Services as the Small Business of the Month for October 2018. Walsh Engineering Services is a woman-owned design and architectural engineering firm, which provides high-quality technical and design services to various public and private sector customers throughout Idaho and around the country.

Located in Idaho Falls, ID, Walsh Engineering Services was founded by Stephanie Walsh along with a group of dedicated engineers. An Idaho Falls native, Stephanie was raised in a potato farming family and went on to graduate from the University of Idaho with a degree in mechanical engineering. After graduation, Stephanie returned home and began working for the Department of Energy’s Idaho National Lab. While at the INL, Stephanie recognized the emerging need for expert contractors at one of our country’s most important nuclear research centers. In 2005, Stephanie finally took the plunge and founded Walsh Engineering Services. Owning her own business and working with the INL as a contractor allowed her to continue to work to meet the needs of the INL, as well as those of a growing Southeastern Idaho.

Since its founding, Walsh Engineering Services has grown from a small group of dedicated engineers and designer-drafters, to a full-service engineering and architecture firm staffed by architects, cost estimators, and support personnel. Their goal has always been to provide high-quality, reliable, and responsive professional technical services to their customers. Their clients have expanded over the years from the INL to other DOE National Laboratories, the State of Idaho Department of Public Works, and fabrication firms located throughout the country. Stephanie is an outstanding example of Ida-

ho’s unique entrepreneurial spirit and is an inspiration to women entrepreneurs across the great State of Idaho.

As you may know, October has been designated as National Women’s Small Business Month. This month, we celebrate the critical contributions that women like Stephanie Walsh make to our country’s economy every day. There are more than 9.9 million women-owned small business in the United States, employing over 8 million people. In 2017, women-owned small businesses generated over \$1.4 trillion in sales. I am pleased to honor a great women-owned small business this month in Walsh Engineering. Stephanie Walsh and her employees at Walsh Engineering exemplifies the perseverance and hard work that lead women-owned small businesses to success.

Stephanie’s team at Walsh Engineering Services is committed to supporting INL’s mission of clean energy, national security, science, and the environment. While Stephanie founded the company to support the changing needs of the INL, Walsh Engineering Services is also focused on training the next generation of workers to continue the history of professionalism and success at the INL. The firm not only offers jobs to recent graduates of Idahoan universities but also develops the next generation of engineers through the firm’s internship program.

Stephanie is proof of Idaho’s unique entrepreneurial spirit. Through her hard work, expertise, and reputation for quality work, Stephanie’s company has grown over the past 13 years and now employs approximately 75 Idahoans who provide valuable contracting services to public and private entities. Stephanie Walsh is a great example to both young female engineers and woman entrepreneurs throughout Idaho and the Nation. I would like to congratulate Stephanie and all of the employees at Walsh Engineering Services for being named the Small Business of the Month for October 2018. I wish you good luck in your future endeavors and look forward to watching your continued growth and success.●

#### 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

● Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, today I wish to pay special tribute to Wayne State University, which this year is celebrating 150 years.

Michigan is home to many world-class colleges and universities. However, what has set Wayne State apart from the very beginning is its unique role in serving the people of Michigan from the heart of Detroit.

Wayne State traces its roots to 1868, when five physicians who had witnessed the very worst of human suffering on Civil War battlefields vowed to change medicine for the better. They founded Detroit Medical College. Its motto: *Salus Populi—Suprema Lex.*