

and their communities, serving out their vision of "a society in which all people live with dignity and purpose, and fulfill their goals and dreams." The Andrus Award, named after AARP founder Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus, is awarded each year to one person or couple in every State. This award recognizes outstanding individuals who share their experience, talents, and skills to enrich the lives of others.

On November 8, 2018, the AARP of Wyoming hosted its Annual Volunteer Recognition Banquet in Casper, honoring Kay Bjorklund of Thermopolis. Kay is an ideal choice for this award. She dedicates her life to serving her family, friends, neighbors, and fellow citizens of Thermopolis and Hot Springs County.

Kay grew up in Newcastle, WY, where she met her husband, Guy Bjorklund. Before they could marry, Guy left to serve our country in WWII as a U.S. marine. Kay eagerly waited for Guy's return. Once Guy was home, the two moved to Billings, MT, to marry and start a family. Guy began a career at JC Penney, and in 1955, a company transfer took the family to Thermopolis. Kay had the demanding job of full-time mother to their three children. Gary and Kay were active members of the Community Church where Kay continues to serve on the visitation committee.

Once her children started school, Kay worked in banking and became more involved in service to others. Kay raised her family with the strong principal of giving back to the community. Through her own example, she taught her family to put others first, to ask what they might do to help their friends and neighbors.

Guy continued to work for JC Penney until he was presented with the opportunity to open the Thermopolis Hardware store. Guy and Kay successfully ran the store until retirement in 1986. They sold Thermopolis Hardware to their daughter and son-in-law, Karen and Dennis Sinclair, who continue to run the business today. Retirement in 1986 allowed Guy and Kay to do what they enjoyed doing together: serving others.

Kay will tell you how important it is to stay active if you want to be healthy and happy. Taking her own advice to heart, Kay is an active member of the Kiwanis club and chamber of commerce. Every Wednesday, she volunteers at the hospital gift shop. Kay turns 95 next month and drives for Meals on Wheels, delivering dozens of meals and hugs to community seniors. Kay volunteers at the Pioneer Home, an assisted living facility and also plays bridge. She is the highest selling fundraiser for the PEO chapter in Thermopolis.

Kay Bjorklund truly represents the Wyoming values of generosity and selflessness. She is a devoted volunteer, loving mother, and generous friend to all. Kay and her late husband, Guy, have three children, Gary and his wife

Dorothy Bjorklund, Karen and her husband Dennis Sinclair, and Eric and his wife Terrie Bjorklund, along with eight grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. Thermopolis is blessed to have this amazing woman and her family call Hot Springs County home.

It is with great honor that I recognize this exceptional Wyoming lady. My wife, Bobbi, joins me in extending our congratulations to Kay Bjorklund for receiving this special award from the AARP of Wyoming.

300TH ANNIVERSARY OF FALMOUTH, MAINE

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, today I wish to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the town of Falmouth, ME. As one of the oldest communities in Maine, Falmouth holds a very special place in our State's history and one that exemplifies the determination and resiliency of our people.

While this landmark anniversary marks Falmouth's incorporation, the year 1718 was but one milestone in a long journey of progress. It is a journey that began thousands of years earlier with Native American villages on the shores of Casco Bay. In 1623, just 3 years after the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock, Christopher Levett established a settlement on an island in the Bay and became friends with the Presumpscot Tribe. During the decades that followed, a robust settlement of farms, fishing boats, and sawmills developed and thrived. Due to the abundance of tall white pine trees, Falmouth became a leading manufacturer of ship masts for the British navy.

Falmouth is a town defined by hard work and a love of freedom. In 1775, the townspeople rose up in protest of colonial rule, and British forces retaliated by burning Falmouth to the ground. Undaunted, Falmouth rebuilt and sent a company of patriots to join the fight for American independence. During the Civil War, more than 100 of Falmouth's young men fought, and many died, so that all might live in freedom. The new Falmouth Veterans Memorial, made possible by widespread community support, honors all who have served our country.

Today, Falmouth is a place of thriving commerce, quiet neighborhoods, and beautiful scenery. Its schools are among the best in our State, providing opportunity to its young people. At the same time, Falmouth is home to an active and engaged senior community.

This anniversary is not just about something that is measured in calendar years. It is a celebration of people who for more than three centuries have pulled together, cared for one another, and built a great community that is a wonderful place to live, work, and raise families. Thanks to those who came before, Falmouth has a wonderful history. Thanks to those who are here today, it has a bright future.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF AUDUBON GREENWICH

• Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Audubon Greenwich as it celebrates 75 years of dedication to the protection and preservation of local bird species and their habitats.

Founded in 1943, the organization began as the Greenwich Main Sanctuary, thanks to the property gifted by Eleanor and Hall Clovis. This sanctuary is recognized as the National Audubon Society's first educational nature center. Two years later, Audubon Greenwich expanded thanks to the donation of the Fairchild Wildflower Sanctuary by Mrs. Elon Huntington Hooker and garden clubs in the area.

For three-quarters of a century, Audubon Greenwich has continued to expand its impact on protecting local wildlife. Today, 686 acres of protected habitat, including seven sanctuaries, provide protection for many species of birds. Though the organization's underlying focus is to support Important Bird Areas and protect bird species of concern, Audubon Greenwich has an even wider ranging set of goals. As part of the National Audubon Society, they advocate for far-reaching innovative steps to reduce the impact of global climate change, prevent air and water pollution, and reduce pesticide use, among other missions.

One of the most notable aspects of Audubon Greenwich is how accessible it is to the public. For 75 years, the sanctuaries have welcomed people to visit and explore, appreciating the preserved areas and the wildlife that resides there. Audubon Greenwich now sees over 20,000 visitors every year. The sanctuaries, nature center, and trails provide many opportunities for public learning and enjoyment, enhanced by the organization's nature education programs for children and adults.

Audubon Greenwich boasts an array of bodies of water, forests, an apple orchard, and even original New England homestead buildings. Their conservation efforts play a vital role in keeping Greenwich and the surrounding area safe for wildlife and well preserved.

Dedicated to preserving the past and preparing natural ecosystems and people for the future, Audubon Greenwich is a positive model for environmental education and wildlife conservation. I applaud its accomplishments and hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating Audubon Greenwich on 75 years of excellence.●

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CON- NECTICUT COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND OPPORTU- NITIES

• Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the Connecticut Commission on Human Rights

and Opportunities, CHRO, as they celebrate 75 years of dedication to eliminating discrimination and seeking equal opportunity for everyone throughout the State regardless of their gender, race, nationality, sexual orientation, disability, or other personal characteristics.

Founded in 1943 as the Inter-racial Commission, the commission is the oldest State-sponsored civil rights agency in the United States. Originally, it researched ways to provide equal opportunities and employment to everyone in Connecticut. Thanks to the Fair Employment Practices Act, which the State implemented in 1947, the commission was provided the legal authority to investigate employment discrimination complaints, conduct hearings, and enforce the law.

Throughout the years, CHRO jurisdiction has expanded, including research, public education, and working with other groups in order to enact positive change. The commission's research division helped lay the groundwork for greater civil rights laws in Connecticut. The agency changed its name during the peak of the American civil rights movement after Governor John Dempsey responded in 1967 to Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech by calling a Governor's conference on human rights and opportunities to put words into action.

Now able to help with individual complaints, CHRO works to ensure compliance with Connecticut human rights laws, including those requiring affirmative action in State agency personnel practices and State contract compliance laws. The agency further assists the people of Connecticut by bringing civil enforcement efforts against illegal discrimination in public accommodations, housing, employment, and credit transactions. Over the past three-quarters of a century, the commission has unfailingly sought to achieve its goals for the benefit of every person in the State.

Tirelessly devoted to eradicating discrimination and creating justice and equal opportunity for all Connecticut residents, CHRO is a catalyst for positive change. I applaud the commission's accomplishments and hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating the Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities on their 75 years of advocacy, education, research, and assistance.●

REMEMBERING A.G. RUSSELL III

● Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Mr. A.G. Russell III, a dear friend and respected entrepreneur and innovator who called Arkansas home and built a renowned knife and cutlery business that continues to thrive today. He passed away last month at the age of 85, leaving behind his devoted wife Goldie and many who admired and respected him from near and afar.

A.G. Russell was born in Eudora, a small town in southeast Arkansas.

Like my own father, A.G.'s dad served in World War II, and the family moved around several times throughout his childhood. From an early age, he became interested in knives, so much so that he even recalled sketching designs in the margins of his schoolbooks.

At 9 years old, A.G. made his first knife with the help of his grandfather. He continued practicing the craft as a hobby into adulthood and eventually turned his passion into a business that grew exponentially, vaulting him to celebrity status among knife producers and collectors. By the mid-1960s, Russell had set up shop in Springdale, AR, and began a journey that would define his life's work and calling.

What first began as an operation selling Arkansas whetstones used for sharpening knives grew to include production of pocket knives and cutlery, first through a mail-order operation and then expanding to internet sales. A.G. worked tirelessly to launch the enterprise and perfect his craft as a knifemaker, enjoying tremendous success and always emphasizing quality over quantity. Excellent customer service has been a hallmark of A.G. Russell Knives from day one.

A.G. was a pioneer in the industry, earning the respect and admiration of his peers while receiving numerous awards and recognition, including his induction into the Knife Digest Cutlery Hall of Fame in 1974. He also helped found the Knifemakers' Guild and was named its honorary president in 1970.

While he accomplished so much in his career, A.G. Russell also had a big heart and enjoyed giving back. He loved Goldie. He marveled at how quickly she learned the ins and outs of the retail knife business and was overjoyed as she helped the company reach new heights of success.

Drawing from his own military experience and that of his dad's, A.G. was a patriot who recognized how vital it is to support our troops. In 2004, he organized the "War on Troop Boredom," an effort to provide care packages that included books, DVDs, pocket-sized Constitutions, and other items to servicemembers stationed in the Middle East.

No one can accuse A.G. Russell of not having lived a full life. He built a remarkable career out of his passion, helping to reshape an industry and become one of its icons. Through it all, he stayed humble, genuine, and fulfilled. He perfected the craft he loved so much while continually meeting and exceeding his customers' expectations.

We will miss A.G. terribly. His warmth and humility are sometimes hard to come by these days. Simply put, there was no one quite like A.G. Russell III, and we mourn this tremendous loss. His family, his community, and the industry he stood atop of now know a void that cannot be easily filled, if ever, but his legacy will endure for many years to come.

I extend my sincere condolences to them and join with so many in cele-

brating A.G.'s life and career. I will fondly remember his impact, his story, and most importantly, his character and generosity as a lasting tribute to my friend and a man I respected so much.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. RAY STOWERS

● Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize and congratulate Dr. Ray E. Stowers, the recipient of the prestigious American Osteopathic Foundation, AOF, Lifetime Achievement Award. This honor is awarded to outstanding osteopathic doctors who have made substantial contributions to the profession and exemplified a lifetime of commitment to the practice. Receiving the award at the AOF honors gala, Dr. Stowers humbly said, "Professionally, there's always a sense of appreciation for being recognized by your profession and for that I'm very grateful."

I am grateful for Dr. Stowers' passion for improving community health and his achievements on this front.

Following the completion of his doctor of osteopathic medicine degree, Dr. Stowers served rural Kansas and Oklahoma for 25 years, establishing five rural health clinics and acting as the only physician for a 300-mile radius. With his passion for rural medicine, he went on to establish the Oklahoma Rural Health Policy and Research Center to promote clinical training and telemedicine. This kind of dedication and innovative thinking demonstrates Dr. Stowers' expertise and desire to help those in underserved areas.

Dr. Stowers, the proud father of four children and nine grandchildren, has been named Family Physician of the Year by the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians, Physician of the Year by the Tennessee Osteopathic Medical Association, and was awarded the Distinguished Service Certificate by the American Osteopathic Association.

His educational outreach is inspiring. Dr. Stowers founded the Lincoln Memorial University-DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine, and its auditorium has been named in his honor. Additionally, he acted as the associate dean for rural health at Oklahoma State University and now serves as the dean of osteopathic medicine and vice president at the Arkansas Colleges of Health Education, the first and only private institution devoted exclusively to healthcare and wellness.

When speaking of his incredible leadership accomplishments as, president of the American Osteopathic Association and Oklahoma Osteopathic Association, Dr. Stowers said, "I was just getting into a position to make a difference with the way things are. The thing that's driven me the most is looking where I could make the biggest difference." The world needs more men of the caliber and character of Dr. Stowers. He is a transformative, influential leader in the field of osteopathic