

finest broadcast journalists, Scott Reynolds, will be signing off the air at Wave 3 News for the last time. For more than 20 years, Scott has brought his passion for Louisville and commitment to professionalism to our local NBC affiliate. Along the way, he has won awards, built friendships, and earned the respect of his viewers. As he prepares to leave Wave 3, I would like to take a moment to honor his career of accomplishment in Kentucky.

Scott grew up on a dairy farm an hour outside of Minneapolis, MN. A fierce competitor, he loved playing baseball and watching the professionals on television. Later in his life, Scott would bring that same competitive nature to his work on the other side of the camera as a broadcaster. After graduating college, he moved to northern Idaho to work for a local radio station. Throughout his career, Scott has worked in several markets, including Cedar Rapids, IA, Las Vegas, NV, and eventually back near his home in Minneapolis.

It's from there that Wave 3 convinced Scott to accept a new adventure in Louisville in 1996. He was ready for the intense market, even describing a constant "news war" in local television. He is clearly thriving in the competition. Now the anchor of the 5, 6, and 11 pm newscasts, Scott was even recognized among his peers in 2016 winning an Emmy.

Although he has earned his seat behind the anchor's desk, that doesn't mean Scott necessary stays there. In fact, I have heard some of his favorite segments have come from the field, including his coverage of the U.S. Supreme Court's *Bush v. Gore* decision in 2000 and his trip to the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City.

I have enjoyed the many times have gotten to speak with Scott about my work in the U.S. Senate. Discussing a broad range of topics important to Kentuckians throughout the years, I am grateful for his balanced demeanor and commitment to integrity. Every time he interviewed me, it was clear I was talking to one of the best in the business.

Although broadcast journalism is a fast-paced, time-consuming job, Scott still finds time for his many hobbies, including charity work with the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation and the American Red Cross. The rest of his time is devoted to his wife and five children: Haley, Connor, Tyler, and twins Matthew and Logan. I would like to extend my warmest wishes to Scott with gratitude for his work at Wave 3 News. I know his drive and talent will be missed. I would like to ask my Senate colleague to join me in congratulating Scott Reynolds on a job well done.

REMEMBERING JOHN ANDREW RICKETT

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, today I wish to remember the life of

John Andrew Rickett of Wayne County, KY, who passed away earlier this year at the age of 94. As a proud member of the "greatest generation," J.A. served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II before returning to service again to fight in the Korean war. J.A. was a leader in his community, providing guidance to all those around him, and he will be remembered by many.

Born and raised in Wofford, J.A. interrupted his high school studies and was drafted into the Army Air Corps. Arriving in England 1 month prior to D-Day, J.A. flew as a B17 waist gunner on several missions over Europe. His service played an important role in helping the Allies win the war.

After his service in the Second World War, J.A. met the love of his life, Frieda. He dedicated the next 64 years to the service and love of his wife and their children. J.A. earned his bachelor's degree in agriculture from the University of Kentucky, where he was also active in the Reserve Officers' Training Corps, ROTC. Upon graduating, he received a commission into the Army as a lieutenant and was drafted once again and sent to Korea.

When he returned, J.A. began working for the UK Extension Service, initially as an agriculture agent but later as a 4H Agent in Monticello. His family remembers that it was with the 4H that he found great joy. Because of his many years of work with the 4H, J.A. is known for his care and respect for several generations of youth in Wayne County.

Elaine and I send our condolences to his children, Cassandra, Jerry, Rebecca, and John, and their friends. I ask my Senate colleagues to join me in remembering the life of a great man, J.A. Rickett.

TRIBUTE TO TOMMY WILLETT

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, after leading the Monroe County government for nearly a decade, my friend County judge-executive Tommy Willett will retire at the end of his term. I would like to take a moment to congratulate him on his accomplishments during his time in office and to thank him for his leadership.

In 2011, Tommy answered the call of public service, stepping away from his successful business career to run for office. The job isn't an easy one. Speaking as a former judge-executive myself, I know firsthand the broad range of responsibilities that fall into the job description. But whatever the challenge, Tommy always worked to better the lives of the men and women of Monroe County.

I would like to mention one particular project I had the privilege to work on with Tommy. More than a decade ago, the community began discussing plans to construct its own water treatment facility. At that time, the county was purchasing water from the city of Tompkinsville, eventually

reaching a high cost of nearly \$80,000 per month. When county officials brought the idea to my attention, I stepped in to help. In addition to funds raised by the community and at the State level, I directed Federal resources to the project to help complete it. Working together with Tommy for a number of years, I was delighted to see the facility become fully functional earlier this year, with the capacity to pump 2 million gallons of water per day.

The Monroe County Water District's treatment plant is just one example of Tommy's lasting impact on behalf of his constituents. With a constant drive to help Kentuckians however possible, he should be proud of his time in office. As he ends his public service, I extend my warm wishes for a restful retirement. Whatever the future may hold for Tommy, I hope he enjoys more time with his sons, Scott and James, and his four grandchildren. I ask my Senate colleagues to join me in congratulating Judge-Executive Tommy Willett for his public service in Kentucky.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that this letter from 44 former U.S. Senators be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DECEMBER 10, 2018.

DEAR SENATE COLLEAGUES: As former members of the U.S. Senate, Democrats and Republicans, it is our shared view that we are entering a dangerous period, and we feel an obligation to speak up about serious challenges to the rule of law, the Constitution, our governing institutions and our national security.

We are on the eve of the conclusion of special counsel Robert S. Mueller III's investigation and the House's commencement of investigations of the president and his administration. The likely convergence of these two events will occur at a time when simmering regional conflicts and global power confrontations continue to threaten our security, economy and geopolitical stability.

It is a time, like other critical junctures in our history, when our nation must engage at every level with strategic precision and the hand of both the president and the Senate.

We are at an inflection point in which the foundational principles of our democracy and our national security interests are at stake, and the rule of law and the ability of our institutions to function freely and independently must be upheld.

During our service in the Senate, at times we were allies and at other times opponents, but never enemies. We all took an oath swearing allegiance to the Constitution. Whatever united or divided us, we did not veer from our unwavering and shared commitment to placing our country, democracy and national interest above all else.

At other critical moments in our history, when constitutional crises have threatened our foundations, it has been the Senate that has stood in defense of our democracy. Today is once again such a time.

Regardless of party affiliation, ideological leanings or geography, as former members of this great body, we urge current and future Senators to be steadfast and zealous guardians of our democracy by ensuring that partisanship or self-interest not replace national interest.

Max Baucus, (Montana); Evan Bayh, (Indiana); Jeff Bingaman, (New Mexico); Bill Bradley, (New Jersey); Richard Bryan, (Nevada); Ben Nighthorse Campbell, (Colorado); Max Cleland, (Georgia); William Cohen, (Maine); Kent Conrad, (North Dakota); Al D'Amato, (New York); John Danforth, (Missouri); Tom Daschle, (South Dakota); Dennis DeConcini, (Arizona); Chris Dodd, (Connecticut); Byron Dorgan, (North Dakota).

David Durenberger, (Minnesota); Russ Feingold, (Wisconsin); Wyche Fowler, (Georgia); Bob Graham, (Florida); Chuck Hagel, (Nebraska); Tom Harkin, (Iowa); Gary Hart, (Colorado); Bennett Johnston, (Louisiana); Bob Kerrey, (Nebraska); John Kerry, (Massachusetts); Paul Kirk, (Massachusetts); Mary Landrieu, (Louisiana); Joe Lieberman, (Connecticut); Blanche Lincoln, (Arkansas); Richard Lugar, (Indiana).

Barbara Mikulski, (Maryland); Ben Nelson, (Nebraska); Sam Nunn, (Georgia); Larry Pressler, (South Dakota); David Pryor, (Arkansas); Don Riegle, (Michigan); Chuck Robb, (Virginia); Jay Rockefeller, (West Virginia); Jim Sasser, (Tennessee); Alan Simpson, (Wyoming); Mark Udall, (Colorado); John Warner, (Virginia); Lowell Weicker, (Connecticut); Tim Wirth, (Colorado).

TRIBUTE TO JANAN EVANS-WILENT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Ms. Janan Evans-Wilent, a Knauss Sea Grant fellow on the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and other members of the committee over the past year.

Ms. Evans-Wilent has leveraged her scientific expertise to inform public policy, having worked on several pieces of legislation that have passed the Senate and several others being considered by the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Her contributions have helped ensure the proper management of our natural resources and the continued protection and prosperity of our Nation. Her contributions will help improve drought monitoring for farmers and improved coastal management across the Nation.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Ms. Evans-Wilent for all of the fine work she has done. I wish her continued success in her new career at the Federal Emergency Management Agency in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT MEGAN PARROTT

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize and highlight the significant contributions of Megan Parrott, my 2018 Air Force fellow. SMSgt Megan Parrott began her fellowship in my office in January and immediately became an invaluable member of my staff. Her work as a part of my national security team has been beneficial in the efforts of my office to advocate and improve life for service-members, veterans, and Arkansans.

Megan was born in Longbranch, NJ, and enlisted in the Air Force in 1999.

In her 19-year military career, both on Active Duty and in the Reserves,

Megan has excelled in her work. A career maintainer, Megan has served as a lead technician, flying crew chief, section chief, and flight line production superintendent. As a testament to her capabilities, in February 2012, Megan was selected for a position on the joint staff, working for the Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. In that position she was the program manager and confidential adviser on matters including joining forces, the Women in Service Review, the Yellow Ribbon Program, and personnel readiness.

She has used her extensive experience in the Air Force and the joint staff to help me serve Arkansans. Throughout her tenure on my staff, Megan demonstrated the Air Force core values of "Integrity First, Service Before Self, and Excellence In All We Do." I relied upon Megan's input on all matters of defense and veterans' policy. Megan drafted legislation, recommended policy positions, staffed me at Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee hearings, represented me in meetings, and helped support my priorities during the appropriations process. She also assisted me in my role as a cochair of the Senate Air Force Caucus. Megan supported multiple congressional delegation trips to Air Force bases and coordinated meetings between Senators, the Secretary of the Air Force, and the Chief of Staff of the Air Force.

Megan was well versed in the subject matter and fully steeped in research, and she always supplemented her knowledge with insights from her personal experience as a senior enlisted leader in the military. In true senior NCO fashion, Megan made time during her year as a fellow to mentor junior members of my staff, providing career advice, offering information about executive branch functions, and talking about professional development opportunities.

As the son of an Air Force master sergeant, I am especially proud to have hosted an enlisted fellow this year. I am only surprised that Megan is not yet a chief master sergeant, and I look forward to attending her promotion to chief in the very near future.

Megan, thank you for all you have done for Arkansas while working on my staff. To her husband Chris—also an Air Force senior enlisted leader—and their two daughters, Natalie and Emily, I say thank you for sharing your amazing wife and mother with my team this year.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO KYLE WILSON AND ANTHONY BYRNS

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week I have the honor of recognizing two outstanding Montanan men. Kyle Wilson of Richland County and Anthony Byrns of Sanders County for their dedicated service to this country.

Kyle Wilson was born and raised in Sidney, MT. A lifelong Montanan who graduated from Sidney High School in 2011. Kyle, dedicated his life to public service, by joining the U.S. Navy. Hard working and disciplined are a few of the words used to describe those who join the, Armed Forces, and Kyle is the epitome of a hard working seaman.

Anthony Byrns, Montana native, from Hot Springs truly grew up knowing the meaning of small town. Following the footsteps of many in his family, Anthony joined the U.S. Navy directly following his graduation from Hot Springs High School in 2015. Anthony has been a dedicated leader, taking initiative of the opportunities set before him. Proud of his small town heritage, he is honored to represent Montanans.

Kyle Wilson and Anthony Byrns are a part of just 1 percent of the Navy who were chosen to be in the Navy Ceremonial Guard. Upon selection they both went through Ceremonial Guard School, an 8-week program where they learn the protocol for important military ceremonies such as funerals. With the passing the late President H.W. Bush, both Wilson and Byrns were selected to carry his casket during the state ceremony, an honor of a life time.

I commend both Kyle and Anthony for their diligent service to this country and congratulate them for representing Montana with honor and pride. I look forward to seeing their future success as they continue to make all Montanans proud.●

TRIBUTE TO DAVE BUSIEK

• Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I would like to pay tribute to an Iowan whose stewardship at a leading television news station in Des Moines, IA, has strengthened the principles of good government, transparency and the public's right to know.

As a member of the broadcast press corps for four decades, Dave Busiek understands that freedom of the press is fundamental to liberty in this country. I often say that journalists serve an important role in our system of checks and balances, which preserves liberty. They are integral to keeping an engaged and informed citizenry. They report corruption, weed out wrongdoing, and hold government accountable to the American people.

Throughout my public service and political life, I hold myself accountable to Iowans by making myself accessible to members of the media. I hold regular news conferences and answer their questions in the hallways of the U.S. Capitol and after my county meetings at home in Iowa.

It is a commitment I have kept since my first campaign for the U.S. Senate back in 1980. And that happens to be the year my political path crossed with Dave Busiek. In fact, for as long as I have served Iowans in the U.S. Senate, Dave Busiek has served the people of Iowa in broadcast journalism: as a reporter, anchor, and news director at