

Connie soon gained a reputation as someone to go to when you needed something done. She is a problem-solver who doesn't know the word no. From the beginning, her ability to find solutions, showcase her region, and quickly develop professional contacts made her a well-respected member of the community. For more than 20 years, she has been a dedicated volunteer and officer of local and statewide political groups, including the Capital City Republican Women, district cochair, and the Republican State Central Committee. She has been active in Beta Sigma Phi and a variety of community service projects.

Connie's local involvement eventually opened doors for a new career, one in public service. In 2001, Connie began working for the Alaska Congressional Delegation. She first started working for Congressman YOUNG, now the Dean of the House. She was a natural fit and soon was running a joint office for the entire congressional delegation. It was my good fortune to join the U.S. Senate with a seasoned staff member like Connie. Her regional knowledge and work experience have, no doubt, helped me represent the unique needs of Alaskans, particularly those in southeast.

After serving in this role for many years, Connie left the office in 2013 to work for the State administration under then-Governor Sean Parnell, but she just couldn't stay away, nor could we last too long without her. Thankfully, in 2015, she came back to us and has served our Juneau office in service to Senator SULLIVAN and me. She has been a dedicated public servant, and I know I speak on behalf of so many Alaskans when I say we will be sad to see her go.

Congressman YOUNG said of Connie that she "is one of the rare gems that comes along rarely in a Congressional career. From the moment I hired her she has been the embodiment of a perfect staff. She is the person who the people of Southeast Alaska have come to rely upon for sound policy advice, every kind of constituent service and has gone above the call of duty to serve as a counselor for the mentally ill and homeless population. She faced any challenge with a positive demeanor, rock solid ethics and made it all look easy. Her guidance to me has been a godsend and a large part of my own success in not only Southeast Alaska but statewide. Whether employed directly by me, the Congressional delegation or any other entity, Connie has always been a stalwart supporter, volunteer and overall great person. Connie, we will sorely miss you!" I couldn't agree more with DON's words.

Connie has done a great job representing the Alaska Congressional Delegation. She brings new meaning to the term professional. Regardless of what side of the political spectrum you are on, you know you will get a straight and fair answer from Connie. Constituents appreciate her work, other elected officials are comfortable

working with her, and the office staff is always asking for and depending on her expertise. In my office, she is our informal office trainer. If you want to know how to do something, Connie is the one to ask. She has provided hundreds of Alaskans with casework assistance on nearly the same amount of issues, from taxes to immigration to forest management, you name it. Connie has handled it.

People that work with Connie will always find a brilliant, caring person that demonstrates a good sense of comradery and teamwork. This is what her colleagues and friends say about her, and I couldn't say it better myself.

Connie's departure will certainly create a loss for me and my team, but I know Connie won't be at a loss for things to do. She is an avid outdoors woman, enjoying skiing, hiking, and biking with her husband Mitch and dog Brodie whenever possible. No hill is too steep, no trail is too long, she tackles each adventure with enthusiasm and a deep love for the outdoors.

Often when I would travel to her region, Connie somehow found time in my otherwise packed schedule to fit constituent meetings into a hike through the Tongass or some other outdoor adventure, giving us a chance to fill our lungs with fresh air while we worked. I will miss those hikes together, but now, I will just have to schedule them with her rather than the other way around.

Connie may be retiring from her career of public service, but I have no doubt she will continue to remain engaged in her community. It is in her blood. Connie leaves behind a legacy of hard work, humor, and commitment to Alaska that will forever be remembered. I wish her all the best in the next chapter of her life. Connie; I'll see you on the trails.

#### TRIBUTE TO STAFF

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, over the past 12 years, I have had the privilege to serve the citizens of Tennessee and our country with the finest group of people that I have ever been around. I truly love them.

Today, in my final statement for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, I want to recognize the people who have become like family, past and present—178 hard-working, tenacious, conscientious public servants—and thank them for all they have done to make a difference in the lives of countless Tennesseans and to make our world a better place:

Jared Adams, Mike Ahern, Ann Marie Anderson, Jessica Bader, Bridget Baird, David Baird, Michael Bassett, Ryan Berger, Hunter Bethea, Casey Black, Bertie Bowman, Courtney Bradway, Michael Bright, Clay Brockman, Paul Burdette, Tom Callahan, Conor Carney, Mark Cochran, Kim Cordell, Jamie Corley.

Kelly Cotton, Leslie Crisp, Charlie Crenshaw Cruse, Joe Curtsinger, Joe Dagher, Kat Dahl, Anna Catherine Davenport, Ashton Davis Davies, Reese Davis, Garnett Decosimo, Armand DeKeyser, Chris Devaney, Caroline

Diaz-Barriga, Bradley Dickerson, Tara DiJulio, Sarah Downs, David Dudik, John Dutton, Alex Eblen, Holt Edwards, Tracey Edwards.

Brooke Eisele, Callie Estes, Heather Scarborough Ewalt, Josh Falzone, Jason Farris, Paul Fassbender, Aaron Fitzgerald, Chris Ford, Katie Davis Freeman, Michael Gallagher, Lee Gatts, Courtney Geduldig, Santo Giordano, Whitney Calhoun Goetz, John Goetz, Paul Goode, Tori Gorman, Jill Grayson, Joey Greer, John Haley.

Stephanie Parsons Hamby, Sam Hamilton, Jenny Hamrick, Chuck Harper, Sarah Mikels Harrington, Joy Hawkins Harris, Jeni Healy, Alex Heaton, Alicia Hennie, Laura Lefler Herzog, Trey Hicks, Caroline Hodge, Farrah Hodge, Chris Howell, Clay Huddleston, Jamil Jaffer, Julia Johnson, Kyle Johnson, Micah Johnson, Jane Jolley, Logan Jolley.

Elizabeth Kelly, David Kinzler, Nick Kistenmacher, Anna Knight, Carrie Lane, Audri Larsen, Molly Lazio, David Leaverton, Carolyn Leddy, Rachel Lee, Ramona Lessen, Sarah Leversee, John Lipsey, Todd Love, Patrick Lynch, Kirsten Madison, Dana Magneson, Emily Manning, Caleb McCarry, Connor McCarthy.

Jonathan McKernan, Claire McVay, Bess McWherter, Abby Meadors, Owen Mercer, Katy Miller, Michael Miller, Christen Mogavero, Becky Moon, Grant Mullins, Lester Munson, Meg Murphy, Angie Nelson, Stacie Oliver, Bentley Olson, Andy Olson, Sarah Osborn, Anne Oswalt, Arne Owens, Connor Pagnani.

Paul Palagyi, Ashley Palmer, Jonathan Parker, Shelby Payne, Michael Phelan, Frank Polley, Shirley Pond, Kelly Puckett, Ben Purser, John Rader, Betsy Ranalli, Tori Read, Rebecca Rial, Scott Richardson, Cate Catani Robertson, Kristin Rosa, Darlene Rosenkoetter, Jill Salyers, Brandeanna Sanders, Marty Schuh.

Patricia Schultz, Hayly Humphreys Schmidt, Les Sealy, Douglas Sellers, Erica Frye Sharber, Evan Sharber, Lowell Sherman, Lexi Simpson, Matthew Smith, Rhonda Smithson, Justin Spickard, Megan Spooner, Dan Springer, Zach Stone, Sarah Ramig Stone, Rob Strayer, James Tatgenhorst, Beth Tipps, Eric Trager.

Chris Tuttle, Daniel Vajdich, Caroline Vik, Morgan Vina, Jennifer Weems, Micki Werner, Jeri Wheeler, Mark White, Brent Wiles, Hallie Williams, Laurie Williams, Staci Willoughby, Bridget Winstead, Todd Womack, Canon Woodward, Alicyn York, John Zadrozny.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO MARY LINCOLN

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week I have the honor of recognizing Mary Lincoln of Liberty County for her 100 years of determination, joy, and service for others.

At 107, Mary Lincoln has lived through 19 Presidents, two World Wars, the Great Depression, and was born before women could vote. Ms. Lincoln was born in 1911, just north of Rudyard, MT, in a small homestead shack. As an infant, she was placed in a cardboard box with blankets and laid atop of the home's oven to keep warm. From then on, Mary Lincoln has embodied the true spirit of Montana, keeping a light heart and always staying busy.

Mary Lincoln graduated from Havre High School at 16, where she then went

on to get a teaching degree from a small college in Illinois. After college, Ms. Lincoln came back to teach at Juanita County School in Montana. She has outlived all of her students, except for one who, at 91, still visits her. Ms. Lincoln and her husband Donald were married for 60 years and had three children together.

Mary Lincoln is an inspiration to all, she has seized all that life has to offer and at 107 still says that her best years are yet to come. I congratulate Ms. Lincoln for her exemplary Montanan spirit and continual support towards small Montana communities.●

#### TRIBUTE TO BOBBY OLGUIN

● Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, it is an honor to recognize Bobby "Buckhorn Bob" Olguin for his decades of serving the best green chile cheeseburgers in the State of New Mexico.

Over the years, the Buckhorn Tavern in San Antonio became one of my favorite places to stop by and grab a bite to eat while driving through the State or after hunting trips with my sons Carter and Micah.

The Buckhorn earned international acclaim in multiple food and travel publications for its delicious burgers. When Food Network celebrity chef Bobby Flay tried to take on Bobby Olguin in a grilling competition in 2009, the winner was never in doubt. However, the real magic in going to the Buckhorn was not just in the burgers; it was Bobby's friendly conversations and the kindness he showed every single person who walked in his door.

After beating cancer, Bobby rightly wants to spend more time with his wife, children, and grandchildren. I am grateful that Bobby is healthy, and I wish him and his family all the best as they start this new stage in life. But speaking for myself, and many other New Mexicans, I am sure going to miss those burgers.●

#### REMEMBERING BETTYE DAVIS

● Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, on December 2, 2018, Bettye Davis, a former Alaska legislator and community leader, passed away at the age of 80. The passing of Bettye Davis attracted national media attention, which is unusual, when an Alaska legislator passes. Bettye Davis was not only a historic figure in the State of Alaska, but also in the broader African-American community. She was the first African-American to be elected to the Alaska State Senate.

Bettye Davis was born in Homer, LA, and graduated from high school in Bernice, LA. She earned her bachelor's degree in social work in 1972 from Grambling, one of America's great Historically Black Colleges and Universities. She also held a certificate in nursing from St. Anthony's College.

Bettye's husband, Troy, was transferred to Alaska by the Air Force. Bettye came along. She recalled no

way did she ever intend to live in Alaska, but when she arrived, she discovered that she loved the land, she loved the people, and the people of Alaska welcomed her. That was 45 years ago, and it led Bettye to conclude that Alaska was her home. She often analogized her story to that of Ruth in the Bible—arriving in a foreign land, accepting the people, finding acceptance, and committing her life to serve the people of her new homeland.

Bettye began a brilliant career in her adopted home State as a State civil servant. It began as a nurse at the Alaska Psychiatric Institute and subsequently as a social worker for the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, retiring in 1986.

She served in the Alaska House of Representatives from 1990–1996 and then in the Alaska Senate from 2001–2013. Bettye served as both majority whip and minority whip during her time in the Alaska House. She was the first African-American woman to serve in the Alaska House of Representatives.

In between her periods of State legislative service, Bettye served on the Alaska State Board of Education, which she chaired from 1998–1999.

Although she was defeated in a reelection bid to the Alaska Senate, her public service career continued on. Bettye joined the Anchorage School Board where she served from 2013 until 2018, when she resigned to attend to health issues. This was her third stint on the Anchorage School Board. Altogether, she served 11 years on the school board.

Her community engagements were many and varied. She was a proud and active member of the Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church, the NAACP, the Alaska Black Leadership Conference, Common Ground, the League of Women Voters, Delta Sigma Theta, and the Zonta Club of Anchorage. She was inducted into the Alaska Women's Hall of Fame.

In her induction speech, Bettye said she wanted to be remembered as someone who fought a good fight, did good work, and won the battle. Every day, she got up with a mission of doing something for somebody, somebody who couldn't speak for themselves, somebody who couldn't express themselves, somebody who just needed a kind word.

Bettye Davis was all of that and more to the people of Alaska. Friends described her as a fortress, a champion for Alaska's children and the poor, a shining example of the best of politics, and the conscience of the legislature.

It is with great sadness that we acknowledge the loss of this exceptional Alaska public servant on the floor of the U.S. Senate. While her voice will be sorely missed, her legacy of leadership sets an example for generations of Alaska leaders to come. On behalf of my Senate colleagues, I extend my condolences to Bettye's surviving family and all of her friends and colleagues who hold Bettye's memory dear.●

#### 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF COMMUNITY HEALTH AIDES

● Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, today I wish to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Community Health Aides in the State of Alaska.

All across rural Alaska, there are women and men who devote their time and energy to ensure their communities remain healthy, have sufficient care, and provide basic health education. These are our Community Health Aides, working each and every day with all ages.

As a result of lack of access to healthcare in rural Alaska, the Community Health Aide Program, CHAP, was developed. Since 1968, CHAP has received congressional funding and recognition for the tremendous work they do. This program has allowed for a greater relationship between the State and Federal Government, as they coordinate with many of our Tribal health organizations, such as the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium.

Alaska has seen outbreaks of tuberculosis, high incidence of infant mortality, and high rates of serious injuries that simply could have been prevented had there been specific community leaders whose role was to educate and provide for the community's health needs.

Currently, there are approximately 550 Community Health Aides and Practitioners, CHA/Ps, in more than 170 rural communities across Alaska. CHA/Ps are truly the people on the frontlines providing firsthand treatment and serving as the link to primary care providers, regional hospitals, and specifically the Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage. For those times that the patients cannot travel, the CHA/Ps will coordinate specialized nurses and practitioners to visit their village quickly and efficiently.

CHA/Ps receive ongoing training and education, following their initial 3 to 4-week training period. There are four training centers in Alaska—Anchorage, Bethel, Nome, and Sitka—and it is at these centers where they receive the skills necessary to ensure the highest quality care is administered in rural regions of Alaska. This is a critical role in our communities. I am grateful for the CHAP program and for the men and women who are changing the outcomes of many Alaskans' lives each and every day.

In this 50th year, Alaskans in communities across the State, from Nuiqsut, Ester, Klawock, Iliamna, to Dutch Harbor, have taken time to celebrate their valued community health providers, giving them the honor they surely deserve.

Thank you.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:33 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks,