

He gave every ounce of himself, up until his last day on Earth, to defending the honor of our Republic. We have lost a booming voice for truth, fairness, and liberty that can never be replaced.

I grieve for a nation without Elijah's leadership. I know that we will hold his legacy close to our hearts and that we will strive to follow his example of moral clarity, but the loss of Elijah Cummings has ripped a hole in the fabric of our country that cannot be fully mended.

My thoughts and prayers are with Elijah's wife Maya, his three children, and all of his loved ones. Know that we are mourning alongside you.

And to Elijah—you left this world a better place than how you found it. Now it is time to rest.

HONORING RADIOMAN 2ND CLASS FLOYD A. WELLS

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life and patriotism of Radioman 2nd Class Floyd A. Wells. A native of Cavalier, ND, he answered the call to defend his country during World War II. At the age of 24, he made the ultimate sacrifice on December 7, 1941, along with 2,402 other soldiers and sailors during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

It was not until earlier this year that his remains were positively identified, and on October 1 he was brought home to be buried at the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery. Attending this burial were members of his family who traveled from across the Nation to pay their respects to this beloved member of their family. Even though most of them had never met him, together they mourned the lost blessings of Floyd not being a part of their family for the past 78 years.

He was remembered as a generous man and a gifted athlete who had a full life ahead of him. Floyd's life could have included competing in sports at college and having a family and home of his own.

Floyd's burial service was a poignant reminder of how the sacrifice of heroes defending our country has an impact on those who knew and loved them far into the future. He died so Americans could live in peace and prosperity. I am thankful he is now back in his home State, lying in eternal rest with other North Dakota heroes, and I am grateful for the continued work of the many patriots who are committed to identifying the remains of all unknown soldiers and bringing them home.

Mr. President, to the family of Radioman 2nd Class Floyd A. Wells, I join citizens across the Nation in sending our sincere condolences. It is heroes like Floyd whose service has kept our communities, State, Nation, and world safe. His life made a difference in the lives of all of us, and we are forever grateful.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING THOMAS D'ALESSANDRO III

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I stand here today to grieve the loss and honor the memory of Thomas D'Alessandro III, a true public servant. I feel extremely fortunate to have benefited from Tommy's wisdom, his friendship, and his example over the years. He will be dearly missed.

Thomas—or "Little Tommy," as he was known—was born in Baltimore in 1929. He grew up in a very politically active home. His father was a Congressman and three-term mayor of Baltimore. His sister, NANCY PELOSI, went on to become the first female Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives. So, in a sense, it seems that Tommy was destined for life in the public sphere. But he never behaved like leadership was his birthright. Whatever the import his name carried, Tommy was always humble, always hard-working, always determined to earn the support and trust of his community. And that is exactly what he did. As president of the Baltimore City Council and then as the city's mayor, Tommy was on the ground, fighting alongside his constituents for what was right.

Tommy was the mayor of Baltimore from 1967 to 1971. It was a tumultuous time for Baltimore and for the entire Nation. After just 4 months in office, Tommy had to lead his city through the grief and unrest that followed the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. Despite being personally devastated, he did that with courage and grace. He went on to serve a term marked by an unyielding commitment to civil rights.

Tommy passed laws to ban discrimination in housing and public accommodations. He fought the racist practice of blockbusting in real estate. He funded anti-poverty programs and new schools in underserved neighborhoods. And he appointed more African Americans to public posts than any Baltimore mayor before him, including to positions that had only previously been held by White people.

He was a man of ideals, certainly. His Catholic upbringing instilled in him the values of generosity and fairness. He had a nuanced understanding of racial inequality in the United States, and he was profoundly disturbed by the intolerance plaguing the country.

But I believe that he earned the support and trust of his community because he didn't just espouse ideals—he didn't simply demand justice or condemn hatred. He delivered concrete, meaningful action to make Baltimore a more equal and harmonious place.

Tommy did all of this because he sincerely cared, not because it was politically convenient. In fact, he faced a lot of criticism for his leadership on civil rights from those who wished to preserve their own privilege. The easy thing would have been to turn a blind

eye to the injustices around him and protect the status quo, but that wasn't Tommy. He wasn't concerned with what was easy; he was concerned with what was right. He had a good heart, and he listened to it.

Even after leaving political office, Tommy continued to give back as a mentor and adviser to future leaders. I am immensely grateful for the counsel that he offered me as a budding lawmaker. As a Baltimore native myself, I have long looked up to Tommy and strived to follow in his footsteps. I can only hope to emulate his integrity, bravery, and compassion.

We have lost a hero and a legend but not a legacy. Tommy was somebody who always led by example. Even though he is no longer here with us, his example lives on. It lives on in the blossoming Baltimore that he cultivated. It lives on in the generations of dedicated public servants that he inspired. And it lives on in the quest for justice that he championed.

Nevertheless, this loss is a painful one. My heart and prayers are with Tommy's wife, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and all of his loved ones as they grieve and heal.●

TRIBUTE TO SARA MEDALEN

• Mr. CRAMER. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize a remarkable woman who has been named North Dakota's Teacher of the Year. Sara Medalen is a reading and math interventionist at Sunnyside Elementary School in Minot.

While working with students to improve their reading and math skills, she has also implemented other innovative programs helping Sunnyside students gain greater self esteem. Girls arrive mornings before school for Books and Braids, so she can braid their hair while they read to her. The Girl Power group does charitable projects and hears from local women in various professions around town. Her STEAM Saturdays bring students together to collaborate on science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics projects, and Strides for Sunnyside is a running group encouraging students to embrace healthy habits and physical fitness. Through these programs and her genuine love for teaching and learning, Ms. Medalen has made a profound difference at Sunnyside School. She is an inspiration to her students, parents and fellow educators across North Dakota.

Mr. President, I congratulate Sara Medalen on this well-deserved recognition. We all remember favorite teachers from our own schooldays, and no doubt they share many of the good qualities that Ms. Medalen brings to her classroom. WalletHub recently ranked North Dakota as one of the best States for teachers, and my State has many top quality educators who are just as remarkable as Sara Medalen. We cannot thank them enough for the positive impact they have every day on North Dakota students.●

TRIBUTE TO JOCELYN TAYLOR,
MICHAELA OSBORNE, AND
ADDISON EVANS

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week I have the honor of recognizing Jocelyn Taylor, Michaela Osborne, and Addison Evans of Cut Bank Middle School in Glacier County for their extraordinary impact on the local community.

Jocelyn, Michaela, and Addison all had grandparents who suffered from cancer. Because of that, the three young women wanted to do more in their community to raise awareness for cancer with hopes to help folks detect the disease early.

Jocelyn's mom, Cherie, suggested that the girls aim their fundraising efforts towards upgrading the Winkley Women's Center mobile mammography unit that visits Cutbank often. Kalispell Regional Healthcare had been working to raise the funds for a new unit.

Jocelyn, Michaela, and Addison joined Kalispell Regional Healthcare at the Lewis and Clark Festival in July to bake goods for a bake sale. They managed to raise \$109.50 and donated all proceeds to the cause.

Kalispell Regional Healthcare Foundation shared the story of the girls' efforts with their supporters, and the story caught fire. The message about their donation kept spreading, and on October 1, \$750,000 was raised because of their dedication and work.

Thanks to the extraordinary efforts of these inspirational young women, they were able to make a tremendous impact on their local community and raise funds for a cause that can save Montana lives.

It is my honor to recognize Jocelyn, Michaela, and Addison for their amazing endeavor. Montanans across our State are proud of the work they achieved, and I look forward to following the future accomplishments of these bright young women.●

TRIBUTE TO MICHIGAN'S
VETERANS

• Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, today I wish to pay special tribute to the more than 580,000 Michigan residents who have proudly served in our Nation's Armed Forces.

For as long as Michigan has been a State and even before, our people have heard the call to serve and bravely stepped up. From the War of 1812 to Vietnam, from the Civil War to today's fight against terrorism, time and again the people of Michigan have proudly worn the uniform and proven their deep sense of patriotism.

Sergeant Don Burgett of Howell was one of these people. His story really could be a major motion picture.

Imagine landing in Normandy on D-day as a 19-year-old, parachuting into the Netherlands for Operation Market Garden, fighting behind German lines for 72 days, surviving the Battle of the

Bulge, and helping to capture Hitler's retreat in Germany.

Sergeant Burgett lost two rifles when they were shot out of his hands, was wounded three times, and wrote four highly acclaimed books about his experience, one of which received rave reviews from both President Dwight D. Eisenhower and historian and author Stephen E. Ambrose.

Of 200 soldiers in his original company, only 11 made it home. Sergeant Burgett was very lucky—and so was Michigan. He returned to Howell and kept on serving his fellow veterans and his community as an active member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, and the Military Order of the Cooties. He passed away in 2017 at age 91.

I was so honored to champion the legislation that renamed the Howell Post Office after Sergeant Burgett and to be there during the renaming ceremony this past June. It was touching to see just how big of an impact one veteran can have on an entire community.

Sergeant Burgett isn't alone. His story is just one of so many examples all across Michigan of veterans serving their communities.

Whether it is North Oakland VFW Post 334 donating more than \$13,000 to the VFW National Home for Children in Eaton Rapids, which serves the children and families of veterans; or the Grand Haven American Legion Squadron 28's annual Salmon Boil Dinner, which supports local charities and events, including Boys and Girls State; or Amvets members hiking 22 miles from Howard City to Big Rapids to bring awareness to veterans suicide and to connect veterans with services and support organizations; or Disabled American Veterans in Detroit hosting a job fair to help veterans and their spouses find jobs with employers who understand their sacrifice; or the Student Veterans of America University of Michigan chapter's dedication to volunteering, including at Food Gatherers Community Kitchen in Ann Arbor, when Michigan veterans hang up their military uniform, they often put on another, whether as coach, teacher, police officer, paramedic, firefighter, elected official, or community volunteer. These patriots understand that service isn't something you do just once. Instead, it is a way of living, and this way of living benefits us all.

Today and every day, we salute Michigan's veterans and thank them for their service, both in our military and in our communities. They truly are what makes America great. Thank you.●

REMEMBERING WILLIAM S. WHITE

• Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to someone who spent his career in service to others, from his Flint neighbors, to communities across the country, to people

around the world, someone whom I was proud to call my friend.

William S. White may not have been a native of Michigan—he was born in Cincinnati in 1937—but he was Michigan through and through, and his devotion to serving the people of his adoptive State was truly inspiring.

Bill earned his bachelor of arts from Dartmouth University in 1959, his master's degree in business administration from the Tuck School of Business the next year, and then spent 2 years in the Army. During that time, he also had the good sense to fall in love with and marry a Michigander, Claire Mott of Flint, whose grandfather, Charles Stewart Mott, cofounded General Motors and created the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation.

Claire's father, C.S. Harding Mott, was impressed by Bill's hard work and business skills. He brought him on as a consultant to help modernize the foundation in the wake of the Tax Reform Act of 1969. Bill did that job so well that, by 1971, he was named vice president and secretary of the foundation and elected to its board of trustees.

Over the years, Bill's role grew and so did the foundation. What started out as a small organization that mainly supported local causes in southeastern Michigan became a philanthropic powerhouse, a \$3 billion foundation that is internationally recognized for its good work around the globe.

That's not all Bill's doing, of course; he was fortunate to be supported by his wonderful family and an amazing team. However, Bill possessed a number of qualities of leadership that helped make the Mott Foundation what it is today.

Bill was creative. He was willing to think big and take big risks to solve big problems. Offering \$5 million to help launch the Federal Government's 21st Century Community Learning Centers initiative sounded crazy at the time, but Bill saw a need and a way to meet it. Today, this program provides 1.7 million children every year with activities that strengthen their academic skills to help them succeed in the classroom and beyond.

Bill was compassionate. I know just how hard the Flint water crisis hit him and how hard he worked to help his hometown recover. He showed that same heart whether providing families with access to clean drinking water, promoting peace and reconciliation in post-apartheid South Africa, supporting our Nation's Historically Black Colleges and Universities, protecting our Great Lakes, or helping Gulf Coast communities rebuild after Hurricane Katrina.

Above all, Bill was dedicated. He served as chairman of Mott's board of trustees until the day he died. And just 2 days before, he gave an emotional speech at the Council of Michigan Foundations' annual conference inspiring philanthropic leaders to keep doing good works and sharing their successes.