

done for North Carolina and the Nation. To be effective, she worked across the aisle to find solutions to the everyday problems facing Americans. When she entered the Senate, she said, “We have a Congress now that is kind of divided, and I want to be one of the ones that helps bring people together.”

Kay was a woman of principle. She was a key vote in support of the Affordable Care Act—that resulted in millions of Americans gaining access to health care. She stood in favor of choice for women, gay marriage, equal pay for women, the Violence Against Women Act, and expanding background checks on gun sales.

She was a fierce defender of military families, of which there are so many in North Carolina, and served on the Armed Services Committee. In hearings, she pressed the Army on the unexplained deaths of 11 infants at Fort Bragg and pushed for full disclosure of documents related to contaminated drinking water at Camp Lejeune. And before many others, she supported women serving in combat zones. “Anybody’s who qualified should be able to serve,” she said.

Kay fought for the “little guy.” She used her banking expertise to fight against payday lending. She wanted a fairer minimum wage, so families can support themselves. She supported job creation and small business. “For me in North Carolina, it’s jobs, jobs, jobs,” she said.

She understood that big money in politics was drowning the voice of regular Americans and that access to the ballot box is being blocked. After her Senate loss, Kay went on to serve as resident fellow at the Institute of Politics at Harvard University with a focus on money in politics and voting rights, saying, “We need to encourage young folks across the country to go exercise their constitutional right to vote. It is something that our Constitution gives us, but not enough people exercise it.”

Kay wanted to inspire young people—especially young women—to vote, to be informed, to run for office. Kay did inspire. And she leaves us with a legacy of integrity, commitment, and civility. I was proud to be her colleague, but I was even more proud to be her friend, and I send my heartfelt condolences to her family.

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, it is with deep sadness that I remember and recognize the life of former U.S. Senator Kay Hagan of North Carolina.

I am grateful that I had the privilege to serve with Senator Hagan here in the United States Senate. Her approach to her job was something we would all do well to learn from. Kay was a model of civility, optimism, and selfless service to the State she loved.

Early in her life, Kay served as a Capitol Hill intern for her uncle, Senator Lawton Chiles of Florida. Her duties included operating the Senators-only elevator. In time, she would go on to prove that she belonged on that elevator, too.

After 10 years in the North Carolina Senate, she won election to the United States Senate and served her home State with dignity. Even in the face of one of the most expensive and challenging election campaigns in this body’s history, Senator Hagan remained focused first and foremost on how to find common ground in this Chamber and the ways she could deliver for her constituents in North Carolina.

I am particularly grateful for the model that Senator Hagan set as the cochair of the Congressional Sportsmen’s Caucus. In that role, she worked hard to forge bipartisan consensus around a comprehensive package of bills to increase public access for hunting and fishing and to extend important fish and wildlife conservation programs.

Julie and I are keeping her husband, Chip; their three children, Jeanette, Tilden, and Carrie; and all of their grandchildren in our hearts. We will all miss Kay.

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I first met Kay Hagan at a People magazine photoshoot for the Senate’s “Leading Ladies” after I was elected in 2012. I appreciated how warm and welcoming she was towards me. I have fond memories of working with Kay on the Senate Armed Services Committee, and we forged a partnership through our leadership roles on the Emerging Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee.

My deepest sympathies are with her family during this difficult time.

NORTH DAKOTA

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. President, I rise today to mark the 130th birthday of the State of North Dakota. On November 2, 1889, President Benjamin Harrison signed the documents turning Dakota Territory into two States, North Dakota and South Dakota. In the 13 decades since then, the people of North Dakota have embraced the many opportunities and challenges of living in the geographic center of North America.

God has blessed us with abundant natural resources, and with hard work and innovation, North Dakotans have fed the world and fueled our Nation. We are top producers of wheat, sunflowers, dry edible beans, navy and pinto beans, canola, flaxseed, and honey. Our ranchers raise 1.7 million beef cattle—or almost three head of cattle for every North Dakotan.

As the Nation’s second largest producer of oil in the country, we are one of the reasons the United States becomes closer every year to being energy independent. As one of the country’s top 10 coal-producing States, our lignite reserves have an 800-year supply. Before there were Federal reclamation laws, North Dakota was enforcing its own, and our air quality has been ranked at among the best in the Nation. We proudly embrace an “all of the above” energy policy that, in addition to oil and coal, supports production of wind and biofuels.

Every year, visitors and new residents discover the beauty of our State, with its distinct geographic regions. A young Theodore Roosevelt’s years of ranching in the North Dakota Badlands greatly influenced his conservation policies as our Nation’s 26th President. North Dakota has been regarded the birthplace of conservation as Roosevelt, who was known as the Conservation President, established vast protections for wildlife and public lands through new national forests, bird reserves, game preserves, national parks, and national monuments. He said, “I would not have been President had it not been for my experience in North Dakota.”

My State can often be found at the top of quality of life rankings in America, largely due to the strong sense of community engagement and social support present from border to border.

I speak for all North Dakotans in the pride we have for what our State has given to the Nation and world in our first 130 years, but, in true North Dakota spirit, I believe most would agree with me that we are just getting started and the best is yet to come. Happy Birthday, North Dakota.

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH R. BRITTON

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, it is an honor to recognize the years of dedication and service of my friend and departing chief of staff, Joseph R. Britton.

Joe has served as my chief of staff for more than 4 years and has managed my Senate office in a professional and purposeful manner. He has overseen my team with incredible leadership and has consistently motivated us all to work hard and make a difference for New Mexicans each and every day.

Joe’s career on Capitol Hill began in 2003, when he served as a legislative assistant for U.S. Senator Ben Nelson from his home State of Nebraska. He then served as legislative director and deputy chief of staff in the office of U.S. Senator MARK UDALL. He also served as a senior adviser to former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack before coming to my office in 2015. He brought with him passion and expertise in healthcare, public lands, budget, and appropriations policy.

As chief of staff, Joe has led both our Washington, DC, and New Mexico offices in Albuquerque, Roswell, Las Cruces, Farmington, and Santa Fe. Joe visited every corner of our State. It is a testament to his dedication to maintaining strong working relationships that New Mexicans know that they can count on our office to be reliable, accessible, and in their corner. Joe took the time to learn about New Mexico and understand our rich history, our thriving culture, and the complex, pressing issues we face in the Land of Enchantment. Throughout his service, Joe has shared my mission and drive to solve problems and find ways to make a difference for New Mexicans.

I recognize that Joe couldn't be where he is or who he is today without the love and support of his family. For her support of him and constant dedication, I thank his wife, Katie. I would also like to recognize Joe and Katie's children, Louise and Jamey, for lighting up their parent's lives. We all look forward to seeing them grow up in the years ahead.

On behalf of the American people, the people of the State of New Mexico, and on behalf of my team that Joe has so ably led for the past 4 years, I thank him for his service. While I am sad to see him go, I know that he will continue to make a difference in the lives of everyone he meets. Joe has been doing that from his first day on Capitol Hill.

I ask my colleagues in the United States Senate to join me in recognizing the dedicated service of my chief of staff, Joseph R. Britton.

TRIBUTE TO EVANN BERRY

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Mr. President, I am pleased to commend Evann Berry for her contributions and dedicated service as a member of my personal office staff.

A native of Jackson, MS, Evann earned her bachelor of science in biological engineering at Bagley College of Engineering at Mississippi State University. After her college tenure, Evann began her professional career by serving as an emerging leader scholar for the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, followed by an internship with the office of the late U.S. Senator Thad Cochran. In May 2016, Evann was hired as a full-time staff member for Senator Cochran, where she easily proved how indispensable her talents were for serving the good constituents of Mississippi. Following Senator Cochran's retirement, Evann maintained a model work ethic within my office that has proven to be a testament to her good character.

Evann's contributions throughout her tenure have been invaluable to the legislative functions of not just my office but my predecessor's office as well, and her insightful input will be missed. I, along with the rest of my office, have benefitted from Evann's knowledge and experience. Her personal qualities are impeccable. She is a hard-working, courteous, and intelligent young woman, who has a strong sense of responsibility, good judgment, and a pleasant demeanor that makes her an easy person to like.

Mr. President, Mississippi and our Nation have been well-served by the diligence, dedication, and commitment to excellence Evann provided on a daily basis. She has put forth her best efforts to reflect credit on me, our State, and the U.S. Senate and has been successful in doing so. I will miss Evann's good counsel. She has my appreciation and gratitude for the notable job she has done in the Senate. I wish Evann all the best in her future endeavors.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MARGARET ST. CLAIR PLASTINO

• Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a true inspiration from my home State of Idaho, Margaret St. Clair Plastino. Likely the oldest living registered nurse in Idaho, Margaret has truly used her 102 years on this earth to improve the health of those in her community. Because of this lifetime of service, she is being honored on Monday, November 4, 2019, by her fellow nurses at the Idaho Nurses Recognition Dinner cosponsored by the Idaho Center for Nursing, Nurse Leaders of Idaho, and the American Nurses Association of Idaho. This is a well-deserved honor, as Margaret spent the majority of her life improving healthcare in Idaho.

Margaret was born in Utah in 1917 to Edwin St. Clair and Evelyn Borrow before she and her family moved to Shelley, ID. She has remained in eastern Idaho ever since, helping her community and serving as a positive influence in the lives of those she encounters. Margaret graduated from the Idaho Falls LDS Hospital School of Nursing in 1939 and was hired by Bonneville County as county nurse in 1942. Beginning her career during the Great Depression, Margaret not only provided much needed medical care, she also provided emotional support and comfort to patients. She treated each patient with the devotion and care that were central to her character.

Margaret married her husband, Ben Plastino, in 1948, and they were blessed with three daughters. She began a new full-time role raising their family in 1952. Although she was no longer spending her days caring for patients as a full-time nurse, Margaret continued to help provide healthcare to the community where she could, including administering important vaccines. She eventually returned to the nursing profession, becoming the first home health nurse in southeastern Idaho. After she retired, she maintained active in the field and volunteered in various roles for the next 25 years.

There are countless stories that illustrate Margaret's devotion as a nurse. Many of these have been shared in local and State newspapers recently and there are certainly more to be shared amongst her friends, family, and community. Such instances include Margaret's decision to administer tetanus shots to those affected by the Teton Dam collapse in 1976. She also cared for children of a struggling family when she found out they did not have sufficient food in their household. It is heartening to hear stories such as these and I hope they will continue to spread and inspire more individuals to do as Margaret has.

Margaret went the extra mile in all that she did to ensure the best care was administered to her community. She did not do this for accolades or atten-

tion. She recognized that she could be of service to her community and wanted to use her skill sets to help. She has demonstrated the love she has for her community and demonstrated how to treat each patient in a manner that reflects their dignity as a person. Margaret is selfless and the type of individual who makes her community and Idaho such a special place. There is no one more deserving to be honored.

Today, I express appreciation on behalf of countless individuals from the great State of Idaho, impacted by Margaret's selfless service. She's truly an extraordinary citizen who didn't just see providing healthcare as a profession but as a calling. I join her colleagues in honoring her lifetime of service.●

HONOR FLIGHT NEVADA

• Ms. ROSEN. Mr. President, I rise today with great pride to recognize a group of national heroes as they have embarked on their Honor Flight from Nevada to Washington, DC. Nevada is home to over 225,000 veterans, and I am glad that we are able to honor 41 of these brave individuals today. These courageous men and women served in our military and sacrificed so much to defend our freedoms and values. Today's honor flight includes individuals who served in the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, and the Coast Guard. As we welcome them to the Nation's Capital, let us remember that these men and women put their lives on the line to answer our country's call to duty, and let us strive to emulate the greatness that they have so selflessly displayed.

I would like to begin with honoring individuals who served in the United States Army. Mr. Glenn Christman, 93, who served in the Army from 1944-1960, spanning World War II and Korea. He was a soldier in the Special Forces, as well as a paratrooper, and attained the highest enlisted rank of sergeant major. He was shot nine times throughout his service and was awarded both the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star. Mr. Vincent Cimino, 86, who served in the Army from 1953-1955 during the Korean war. He was a soldier stationed in Germany as a clerk typist, responsible for making dog tags for his battalion. Mr. Donald Davis, 85, who served in the Army from 1954-1956 during the Korean war. He was a soldier in the Quartermaster Corps. Mr. Alfred Fiel, 90, who served in the Army during the Korean war. He was stationed in Frankfurt, Germany, and served as a supply clerk for the military police. Mr. Ronald Fortmeyer, 87, who served in the Army during the Korean war from 1952-1954. He was a private first class serving as an infantry soldier on the 38th parallel. Mr. Charles Nola, 82, who served during the Korean and Cold wars. He was a soldier stationed in Germany, as well as in the U.S. working as a senior movement specialist. Mr. William Sanchanko, 92, who served in the Army