

She is passionate about incorporating place-based knowledge into the classroom. She says that every year her students participate in place-based learning. They pick berries, a traditional part of the Alaska Native subsistence lifestyle, in order to gather the data and more detailed information about our incredible environments throughout the State.

“Students in my classroom learn a lot of Alaskan Native languages and participate in a Tlingit dance group, performing around southeast Alaska.” She also takes her fourth and fifth grade students on a field trip to the muskeg ecosystem to learn how animals adapt to survive in different environments.

“Teaching in Alaska is a gift and taking advantage of it is something I value very much,” Ms. Wright said. It was, in fact, Mr. President, a sentiment expressed by all four of these teachers who won this very prestigious award.

Henry Adams once wrote, “A teacher affects eternity; he or she can never tell where their influence actually stops.” Think about that. A teacher impacts eternity.

The influence that these teachers have over the lives of so many young Alaskans will really never stop. As I mentioned, many staff members of my office are direct recipients of this influence, which will continue help to grow the next generation of leaders, of workers, of thinkers, of doers, and I am sure the next generation of teachers, through their example. I see students who, in turn, will continue to make our State and our country the great places that they are. We cannot thank these teachers enough for what they have done.

So I want to congratulate Mr. Hall, Ms. Childress, Ms. Wilcox, and Ms. Wright for all they have done for this great award, for all they continue to do, for your dedication to your profession, for your passion for math and science, and for your commitment to Alaska’s next generation.

And, of course, I want to congratulate them on being this week’s Alaskans of the Week.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

#### ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. SULLIVAN. For the information of Senators, tomorrow the Senate will vote on the confirmation of the Rudofsky and Wilson nominations at 11:45 a.m. and the confirmation of the Nardini nomination at 1:45 p.m.

### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

• Ms. HARRIS. Mr. President, I was absent but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 344 the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 355, David Austin Tapp, of Kentucky, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims. •

#### S. RES. 150

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, this week, the United States House of Representatives made history. For the very first time, an overwhelming majority of its members—more than 400—adopted a resolution recognizing the Armenian genocide. I rise today to urge my colleagues in the Senate to do the same thing—the right thing—and pass S. Res. 150.

It has now been 104 years since the Armenian people became targets of the most evil and hate-filled campaign of violence that the world had ever seen. From 1915 to 1923, a million and a half Armenian men, women, and children were murdered at the hands of the Ottoman Turkish Government. It was so atrocious that no word yet existed to describe what was happening—not until the creation of the word “genocide,” the deliberate and systematic destruction of a racial, political, or cultural group.

Unfortunately, nobody has ever been held accountable, and the events surrounding the Armenian genocide continue to be denied, but the truth is simple: What happened to the Armenian people was absolutely genocide, and the Armenian community is right to insist that it be described that way.

This is why I have always supported Senate resolutions calling for the recognition of the Armenian genocide and urged my colleagues to join me.

We know that the deeper the wound, the longer it takes to heal, and nothing cuts deeper into the collective consciousness of a people than genocide.

At the same time, we know now that the Ottoman Empire’s determination to exterminate the Armenian people was no match for their will to survive, and those who survived embodied the best qualities of the human spirit: hope, resilience, perseverance, and love.

Some survivors made their way to America, and many of them built their new lives in Michigan. They have created thriving communities, built businesses, raised families, founded schools, and contributed their rich culture to the fabric of our State.

The more than 20,000 Armenians who are living in Michigan today have not forgotten what happened—none of us should, for we know that, if we do not recognize the atrocities of the past, we

risk blinding ourselves to atrocities in the future.

Recognition of the Armenian genocide is long overdue. A crime like this casts a long shadow, and this shadow can be conquered only by light, the light of truth that comes from fully acknowledging the full scale of the horror that the Armenians endured.

I urge my colleagues to take up and support this resolution.

Thank you.

#### REMEMBERING KAY HAGAN

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of the late Senator Kay Hagan. Her loss will be deeply felt by us here in the Senate, both by those who served with her as well as the many staff and individuals she worked with over time. Senator Hagan was a dedicated public servant who touched many lives faithfully serving her home State of North Carolina.

Born in Shelby, NC, Senator Hagan attended Florida State University and then returned to North Carolina to attend law school at Wake Forest University. She worked at North Carolina National Bank, a predecessor to Bank of America, for 10 years, becoming a vice president in the estates and trust division. She was a loving wife and mother deeply committed to her family. She left the bank to raise her three children—Jeanette, Tilden, and Carrie—and became actively involved in the Greensboro community.

Senator Hagan started early in politics helping her uncle, former Florida Governor and U.S. Senator Lawton Chiles, paste bumper stickers on supporters’ cars. She was active in North Carolina politics and ran Governor Jim Hunt’s campaign in Guilford County in 1992 and 1996. In 1998, she ran for the North Carolina State Senate and served there for 10 years, where she co-chaired the budget committee. During her 6-year tenure as cochair of the budget, she increased North Carolina’s Rainy Day fund and balanced five straight budgets. I commend her commitment to fiscal responsibility and achieving a balanced budget. In 2008, she won the election for the U.S. Senate seat and showed up in Congress ready to work for North Carolinians back home.

One thing Senator Hagan was known for here in the Senate was the effort she put in to be as open and accessible to her constituents. As a dedicated public servant, Senator Hagan made constituent services a priority and often traveled the State hosting “Conversations with Kay.”

It is difficult to pinpoint Senator Hagan’s single most greatest achievement. During her political career at the local, State, and Federal level, Senator Hagan championed many important issues and served as a tireless advocate for her constituents.

Representing one of the most military-friendly States in the Nation,

Senator Hagan advocated for Active-Duty military, veterans, and their families in her role serving on the Senate Armed Services Committee. Coming from a military family, Senator Hagan understood the needs of those who serve our country and their families. Along with Senator BURR, she was key in getting documents released pertaining to contaminated water at Camp Lejeune, giving families the answers they deserved. She was constantly reminding us all to remember and understand the sacrifices made by our military and their families, often telling their stories on the Senate floor.

I had the privilege of working with Senator Hagan on issues before the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee. From her time in the State senate, Senator Hagan was a champion for financial literacy education, and I greatly enjoyed our work together on financial literacy initiatives for children. I worked very closely with Senator Hagan on the Biologics Price Competition and Innovation Act, which we offered as an amendment together, along with Senator Hatch, to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act when it was being considered in committee. She was instrumental in the creation of a new pathway for biosimilars, a lower cost alternative to biologic drugs. Our work together has fostered competition and improved choices for American patients.

Senator Hagan understood the true value of bipartisan work and developed strong relationships with Members of both parties. I admired her commitment to work across the aisle and reconcile shared goals of bettering the lives of Americans.

She was a committed woman of faith, serving as a Sunday school teacher for many years. A member of the Presbyterian Church, she was always one to do what she thought was right rather than what was easiest.

My wife Diana joins me in sending our deepest condolences to her loved ones. We hope she will find eternal peace and happiness knowing she had a profound effect on all that knew her as a colleague, as a mother and as a friend.

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#### REMEMBERING CHRISTA MCAULIFFE

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate the life and legacy of Christa McAuliffe.

Christa McAuliffe was born on September 2, 1948, in Boston, MA. She grew up in suburban Massachusetts, and she studied American history and education in college and graduate school. After some time teaching high school in Maryland, she moved in 1978 with her family to New Hampshire, where she started work as a teacher at Concord High School.

She was a passionate and dedicated teacher. She taught a variety of subjects, including history, economics,

and law. Her former students describe her enthusiasm and her creativity in planning lessons and activities for students. She even developed an original course, called "The American Woman."

One of her former students says, "She was very exuberant in her teaching and excited about what she was teaching. She was always willing to help outside of the classroom if you needed it. I remember her constantly, every day that I stayed late after school to make up work that I'd missed for other classes. . . . checking in to see if there was anything she could do to help me."

Christa believed strongly in the importance of the teaching profession and in working creatively to help students understand the human side of historical events. When NASA launched its Teacher in Space Program in 1984, Christa seized the opportunity and applied for what she called the "ultimate field trip." She wrote in her application to NASA:

In developing my course, The American Woman, I have discovered that much information about the social history of the United States has been found in diaries, travel accounts and personal letters. This social history of the common people . . . gives my students an awareness of what the whole society was doing at a particular time in history. They get the complete story. Just as the pioneer travelers of the Conestoga wagon days kept personal diaries, I, as a pioneer space traveler, would do the same . . . My perceptions as a non-astronaut would help complete and humanize the technology of the Space Age. Future historians would use my eyewitness accounts to help in their studies of the impact of the Space Age on the general population.

Her application was chosen out of more than 11,000 applications submitted by teachers from around the country.

Even during her busy NASA training schedule and newfound public attention, she remained dedicated to her students back home in New Hampshire. She flew all the way back from Houston, in the middle of training, in order to be there for the first day of school at Concord High. She even somehow found the time to write college recommendations for her students on the day before the Challenger launch.

She planned to keep a journal and teach lessons from space. She wanted to humanize space travel and make the experience accessible to regular people. She said that she hoped her experience and the public attention would inspire more people to become teachers.

Tragically, on January 28, 1986, the Challenger shuttle exploded just 73 seconds after launching, killing Christa as well as the rest of the crew: Gregory Jarvis, Ronald McNair, Ellison Onizuka, Judy Resnik and Dick Scobee.

Many people know that Christa's motto was "I touch the future, I teach," and that statement remains as true today as it ever was. More than 30 years later, Christa McAuliffe continues to inspire new generations of students and teachers. In fact, a num-

ber of Christa's former students have gone on to become teachers themselves. One in particular says she at times turns to the question "What would Christa do?" for guidance.

Schools and science centers across the country are named for her. In New Hampshire, we have the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center, an air and space museum and planetarium, as well as the Christa McAuliffe School, an elementary school in Concord. There have even been an asteroid and a crater on the moon named after her.

The Christa McAuliffe Commemorative Coin Act was signed into law by the President on October 9. The enactment of this legislation means that a commemorative coin in Christa's honor will be minted by the U.S. Treasury in 2021. Proceeds from the sale of this coin will go to support science, technology, engineering and math, STEM, education.

Christa McAuliffe demonstrated throughout her life how to make the world a better place, not only through once-in-a-lifetime feats of bravery but also through her everyday actions and interactions with those around her. I hope we can all continue to look to her example for inspiration and ask ourselves "What would Christa do?"

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#### REMEMBERING CHIEF GREGORY E. PYLE

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the memory of Gregory E. Pyle, Chief of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, who passed away last week. Chief Pyle was a dedicated servant and leader of the Choctaw Nation for 30 years. After more than 13 years as the Assistant Chief of the Tribe, in 1997, he became Chief of the Choctaw Nation until his retirement in 2014.

Chief Pyle was a man of vision and action. He put families first by focusing on health, jobs, and education. Under his thoughtful leadership, the Choctaw Nation focused on economic development, which resulted in new business and job opportunities for Tribal members.

One of my fondest memories with Chief Pyle was when we worked together to pass the historic Code Talkers legislation, which awarded Congressional Commemorative Medals to the Code Talkers of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, along with other Tribes, in recognition of their service during World Wars I and II. Not many people remember this, but Chief Pyle and I started on our journey to honor these heroes in 2002, and it wasn't until 2008 that we were able to get it done. This measure along with many others not only speaks to his character, but also to his unwavering dedication to the Choctaw people.

The Choctaw Nation and the State of Oklahoma are grateful for his dedication and humble leadership. His legacy will benefit generations to come.