

one of many being held in communities across North Dakota. Next Wednesday in Williston, several military organizations and Williston State College will sponsor a presentation by Medal of Honor recipient SSG Clinton Romesha.

As one of only 3,507 recipients in American history to receive this honor, Staff Sergeant Romesha was the fourth living Medal of Honor recipient for the Afghanistan and Iraq wars. It was presented in 2013 for his heroism during the Battle of Kamdesh in October 2009, a 12-hour battle that was significant in the Global War on Terrorism.

During this intense attack by some 300 Taliban fighters, despite his own shrapnel wounds, Romesha continued to fight. His actions helped mount a successful counterattack that eliminated Taliban machine guns and allowed for wounded soldiers to be taken to an aid station.

In his bestselling memoir, "Red Platoon: A True Story of American Valor," published in 2013, Romesha shares the account of the Battle of Kamdesh and how one person can make a difference against seemingly impossible odds.

Now a resident of Minot, ND, he travels extensively as a motivational speaker, sharing the message about how the capacity for leadership and bravery resides within everyone.

I commend Williston State College and its Foundation, the Williston Basin Chapter of the American Petroleum Institute, Williston Post 37 of the American Legion, Military Affairs Committee, VFW-Post 12169, and Williston Chapter 9 of the Disabled American Veterans for bringing this inspirational message by a true hero to their community.

Mr. President, on this Veterans Day, may we be reminded to be thankful every day for all who serve our country. May God bless all veterans and their families. They are all heroes.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO TODD PORTUNE

• Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Mr. Todd Portune, a dedicated public servant, who has spent his career serving the people of Cincinnati with dedication and enthusiasm. Commissioner Portune is retiring from politics following this term after more than a quarter century of service, and I know how much he will be missed by the people of Southwest Ohio.

Commissioner Portune was born in Cincinnati and from an early age was known for his work ethic. Throughout his education, Commissioner Portune remained in Ohio, graduating from Colerain High School, Oberlin College, and serving as the president of the Student Bar Association at the University of Cincinnati Law School.

Commissioner Portune's leadership embodies good government in action.

He helped lead the way in improving public health, from working to reduce infant mortality to expanding oral and dental care. Through projects to increase housing and job opportunities and secure funding for local first responders, he consistently focused on what he believed to be the fundamental goal of public service: to improve people's lives.

His service, from four terms in Cincinnati City Council to six terms as Hamilton County commissioner, inspired many to stand up for what they believe in. Commissioner Portune's fight for human rights will be a lasting part of his legacy. He advocated for LGBTQ rights before it was popular, and he always supported disability inclusion, those battling with addiction, and people without a voice in government.

His political triumphs can only be matched by his incredible personal tenacity throughout every obstacle thrown his way. But no matter what, he focused on serving the people in his beloved county.

Commissioner Portune will be remembered for his good humor, passion for public service, and strength to endure battles of all kinds. I ask my Senate colleagues to join me in thanking him for his service to our community and our State.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. W. MARK DONALD

• Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Mr. President, I am pleased to commend Dr. W. Mark Donald, who has been elected as speaker of the House of Delegates for the American Dental Association, where he will serve a 3-year term. Dr. Donald has long been a leader in the dental community in Mississippi, and I look forward to seeing his success in this position with the American Dental Association, ADA.

A native of Louisville, MS, Dr. Donald graduated from the University of Mississippi School of Dentistry in 1988. Following graduation, he completed his general practice residency program with the VA Medic Center and the University of Mississippi School of Dentistry in Jackson, MS. In 1990, Dr. Donald opened his general dentistry practice in Louisville, MS. For three decades, Dr. Donald has been very active in the dental community in Mississippi. He has served as speaker, president, and as an ADA delegate for the Mississippi Dental Association. In addition, he served as speaker and president of the Academy of General Dentistry and as president of the Academy of General Dentistry Foundation. His other experience includes serving as a member of the ADA Council on Dental Practice in 2018; as chair, vice chair, secretary/treasurer, and parliamentarian of the ADA 5th District; and as Mississippi Mission of Mercy Project chair in 2011, 2013, and 2019. Since 2015, Dr. Donald has taught the next generation of Mississippi dentists as an ad-

junct faculty member at the University of Mississippi School of Dentistry. In 2017, Governor Phil Bryant appointed Dr. Donald to serve on the Mississippi Board of Dental Examiners, where he still currently serves.

Dr. Donald's contributions, dedicated service, and commitment to excellence have made a difference for dentists and dental patients across my State. In his new role serving as speaker of the House of Delegates for the American Dental Association, I believe he will continue to commit himself to bettering the dental profession and improving the lives of patients across the nation.

Mr. President, Mississippi is extremely proud to have Dr. Mark Donald serving as speaker of the House of Delegates for the American Dental Association. He has my appreciation and gratitude for all he has done for the great state of Mississippi. I wish Dr. Donald, and his family, all the best in their future endeavors.●

RECOGNIZING EAGLE ROCK GALLERY

• Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, as a member and former chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each month I recognize and celebrate the American entrepreneurial spirit by highlighting the success of a small business in my home State of Idaho. However, in honor of Veterans Day on November 11, this month I will honor a veteran-owned small business for each of the 10 days the Senate is in legislative session. The personal sacrifices made by America's veterans have protected the very freedoms and values that give each of us and our children the ability to achieve the American dream. The skills veterans learn as members of the military are invaluable and undoubtedly contribute to Idaho's flourishing veteran business community. I am proud of the sacrifices veterans have made to protect our country and that they are choosing Idaho to call home when they complete their service in the military.

As your U.S. Senator from the great State of Idaho, it is my pleasure to recognize Eagle Rock Gallery in Idaho Falls as the Veteran-owned Idaho Small Business of the Day for November 7, 2019.

Eagle Rock Gallery opened 6 months ago in Idaho Falls. It is owned and operated by U.S. Army veterans Gary Jensen and his wife, Kathi Cheyenne Jensen. The Jensens opened the gallery to host a collection of nationally and internationally recognized fine artists. The gallery includes a portrait studio, where clients can schedule portrait sessions for their families, friends, and even pets. In addition, the gallery features a variety of art available for purchase.

Kathi Cheyenne Jensen is an award-winning photographer known for her patriotic images, specifically those that feature bald eagles. The Jensens

seek to honor veterans who, like themselves, have sacrificed for American freedom. Recently, the gallery held a fundraiser with proceeds going to support local veterans in Idaho Falls.

Congratulations to Gary and Kathi Cheyenne Jensen and all of the artists at Eagle Rock Gallery for being selected as the Veteran-owned Idaho Small Business of the Day for November 7, 2019. You make our great State proud, and I look forward to your continued growth and success.●

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL JAMES LONG

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I congratulate a former staff member of mine, James Long, on his recent promotion to colonel in the Air Force Reserve.

Jim served for a year as an Air Force fellow on my staff back in 2011. He worked hard and did a great job for us as we worked to make sure the men and women of the military were properly funded, organized, trained, and equipped. In particular, Jim was very helpful with respect to intelligence community issues, having previously served as a senior special agent at the Central Intelligence Agency's Office of the Inspector General, where he conducted and oversaw investigations of CIA officers and contractor personnel. After leaving my office, he went on to work with the Air Force's Office of Special Investigations as the chief of the Crime Integration Desk, as well as being individual mobilization augmentee to the Commander of the Investigations Collections Operations Nexus Center at Marine Corps Base Quantico.

Last year, while continuing his work in the Air Force Reserve, Jim was hired by the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Inspector General to build its first Major Frauds and Corruption Unit. He currently oversees large-scale criminal investigations and has put together a team of anti-fraud professionals, including special agents, forensic auditors, forensic accountants, data scientists, and analysts, to investigate and uncover significant fraud schemes. His team was also an integral part of the recent high-profile fraud case involving misuse of disaster relief funds that the Federal Emergency Management Agency administered in Puerto Rico following Hurricane Maria.

Jim has had a long and distinguished career in the military, where he has served for over 26 years. He first served for 4 years in the Marine Corps, and after going to college, he joined the Air Force Reserve, where he has risen through the ranks to his current position as colonel.

Jim continues to have a stellar career serving the Nation, including being deployed to Kirkuk, Iraq, in 2008, where he commanded 57 combat missions.

Again, I wish to congratulate Colonel Long on his promotion and wish him

and his family the very best as he continues to serve our Nation, both in his capacities at the Air Force Reserve and at the Department of Homeland Security.●

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL GREGORY A. LUSK

● Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay MG Gregory A. Lusk, the Adjutant General of the North Carolina National Guard, for his many years of service to the great State of North Carolina.

Major General Lusk has served as the 40th Adjutant General of the North Carolina National Guard with distinction for nearly a decade. Major General Lusk's adept leadership over the roughly 11,500 citizen soldiers and airmen serving in the North Carolina Army and Air National Guard has been prominently displayed during the multiple harrowing natural disasters that have struck North Carolina in recent years. In 2018, Major General Lusk oversaw a massive mobilization of N.C. Guardsmen prior to the landfall of Hurricane Florence. During the ensuing deployment, 3,400 N.C. Guardsmen assisted local, State, and Federal disaster response teams on hundreds of dangerous search and rescue operations vital missions to provide lifesaving relief to evacuated families. In total, more than 1,300 North Carolinians were safely evacuated from dangerous floodwaters due to the effective command of Major General Lusk and the efforts of the North Carolina National Guard.

The tireless leadership of Major General Lusk has been invaluable during the numerous overseas deployments, stateside military exercises, and natural disaster responses that the North Carolina National Guard has participated in since his appointment to adjutant general in 2010. Major General Lusk's contribution to advancing the overall readiness and operational capabilities of the North Carolina National Guard has been critical in maintaining an effective and resilient Reserve Force. Through operations including Inherent Resolve, Enduring Freedom, and Freedom's Sentinel, as well as during the Hurricanes Irene, Matthew, Florence, and Dorian, Major General Lusk has ensured that the men and women of the Guard had the utmost preparation and training for every mission that they embarked on.

Major General Lusk has selflessly served the state of North Carolina and our Nation for almost 40 years. Following his commissioning through the Reserve Officer Training Program at North Carolina State University in 1982, Major General Lusk was stationed throughout the State and around the world as he rose from a second lieutenant to a major general. Major General Lusk was mobilized twice to Iraq as both an executive officer and a commander of the 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, commanding 4,000 North Carolina Guardsmen in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

As a U.S. Senator, a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, and a North Carolinian, I am pleased to congratulate Major General Gregory Lusk on his retirement, for his impressive career of military service and steadfast commitment to our country.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Ms. Roberts, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

(The message received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-3120. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Dinotefuran; Pesticide Tolerance for Emergency Exemption" (FRL No. 10000-96) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 4, 2019; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3121. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Pyropropylamide; Pesticide Tolerance for Emergency Exemptions" (FRL No. 10000-50) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 4, 2019; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3122. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Tebuconazole; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 10001-27) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 4, 2019; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3123. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Michael D. Lundy, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3124. A communication from the Acting Principal Deputy Director, Defense Pricing and Contracting, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Modification of DFARS Clause 'Protection Against Compromising Emanations'" (RIN0750-AK52) (DFARS Case 2019-D015) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 1, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.