

completing initial training at the Naval Training Center in San Diego, he earned designation as a hospital corpsman third class. In 1991, Cassady graduated from University of Maryland University College and received a commission on June 8, 1993 as an environmental health officer.

From 1993 to 1999, Cassady completed tours at the U.S. Naval Hospital Keflavik in Iceland and Branch Medical Clinic in Iwakuni, Japan, where he increased the overall readiness and health of hospital staff and improved testing of the base drinking water. In 2001, he deployed to Australia in support of Exercise Tandem Thrust 2001 and later deployed to Thailand in support of Exercise Cobra Gold 2002 to improve combat readiness, combined-joint interoperability, and enhance security relationships between the United States, Thailand, and Singaporean forces. He subsequently served as a medical department and safety inspector for the Board of Inspection and Survey, providing direct support to the fleet; and as chief, medical concept and development, Joint Forces Command, where he furthered joint warfighter capabilities and supported U.S. Northern Command response and relief efforts post Hurricane Katrina.

In 2006, he deployed to Iraq in support of combat operations, where he served as the civil affairs public health section lead, Multi-National Division in Baghdad. Upon returning from Iraq, he served as the assistant officer in charge for the Navy Environmental and Preventive Medicine Unit Two. Cassady also deployed as the medical planning officer in Expeditionary Strike Group Two and U.S. Naval Forces Central Command in Bahrain, where he was instrumental in coordinating medical plans, guidance, and response to counter piracy and Marine Corps operations, and health service support to the U.S. FIFTH Fleet. His next two tours of duty were as the Environmental Health Officer at the U.S. Naval Hospital Guantanamo Bay in Cuba and the U.S. Naval Hospital in Naples, Italy. During these tours he provided public health oversight and leadership. Commander Cassady reported to his current and final tour of duty in July 2014 at the Naval Medical Research Center in Silver Spring, where he provides program management, leadership, and key administrative direction.

Commander Cassady has spent the entirety of his adult life and over 15 of his 35 years of naval service deployed or stationed overseas in the defense of the United States. Additionally, he holds a master of science in management from Troy State University, a master of public health degree from the Ohio State University, a master of arts in national security and strategy from the Naval War College in 2007, and a master of science in education from Old Dominion University, which he completed in December of 2011.

Mr. President, I ask that you join me, our colleagues, and Commander

Mike Cassady's family and friends in saluting this distinguished officer's many contributions and sacrifices in defense of our great Nation. It is fitting that the Senate today publicly recognizes his service and wishes him, his wife Rohini, and their children, Rhyann, Kassandra, Briana, and David, health, happiness, and success in the years to come.

Congratulations, Commander Cassady, on completing an exemplary career.

#### TRIBUTE TO YVETTE LEWIS

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Yvette Lewis for her excellent service as part of my team in support of the people of Maryland. Yvette has been our director of external relations and community outreach in my Senate office since I began my service in the Senate. In that capacity, she has organized forums throughout Maryland to provide support to our veterans, our senior citizens, and others. Her signature program was organizing consumer protection forums across our State so we could alert Marylanders to the wide array of schemes and scams designed to cheat consumers out of their hard-earned money. She has been deeply committed to the principle that the health of our entire State depends on the success of all our communities.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Yvette for over a decade and am grateful for all her good works in our State and beyond. She is a longtime resident of Bowie, MD, and has worked for years in public service and civic engagement. She has previously worked as the president of the Voter Empowerment Action Project. Moreover, she has also served on the White House Commission for Presidential Scholars. Additionally, she has an accomplished background in music as an opera singer and music teacher in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Montgomery county schools. Yvette is married to Ed Lewis, and they have two children, Shannon and Eric.

Various events have led to a sudden vacancy in the position of the chair of the Maryland Democratic Party. Yvette was the consensus choice as the right person for the job at this moment. While we will miss her on Capitol Hill, I am glad that her enormous talents will also be put to good use in her new role.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### REMEMBERING DENISE D'ASCENZO

• Mr. BLUMENTHAL. I rise today with a heavy heart to pay tribute to Denise D'Ascenzo, the longtime anchor at WFSB Channel 3 Eyewitness News, the CBS station in Hartford, CT. She was a trusted journalist, a devoted mother and wife, and a dear friend. Sadly, Denise passed away suddenly on De-

ember 7, 2019. She will be remembered for her tireless grace, integrity, and humor.

Denise was born Washington, DC, and grew up in Rockville, MD, where she became editor-in-chief of her high school newspaper. She attended Syracuse University, where she got her first break in television at WIXT-TV doing the nightly weather forecast. Also at Syracuse, she met the love of her life and future husband, Wayne. After Syracuse there were stops at television stations in St. Louis and Cleveland, before moving to Connecticut in 1986 to join WFSB.

In Connecticut, she provided special coverage of political conventions, the U.S. visit of Pope John the II, 9/11, the arrest of the DC sniper, and the tragic shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary School. Denise had a passion for health and medical reporting, taking viewers inside operating rooms, cardiac catheterization labs, and neonatal intensive care units, as well as onboard Life Star, the critical care helicopter service. She was a leading voice in raising awareness for conditions such as breast cancer, heart disease, obesity, and preventive healthcare.

During her 33 year career at WFSB, she was honored with 2 Edward R. Murrow Awards, 7 Associated Press Awards, 11 Emmy's, and a national Gabriel Award. She was recognized for her work with a number of charities, including the Muscular Dystrophy Association, Mary's Place, and the Channel 3 Kids Camp. In 2013, Denise was elected to the Silver Circle by the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences for her significant contributions to broadcasting. In 2015, she became the first woman to be inducted into the Connecticut Broadcasters Association Hall of Fame.

Connecticut has lost a broadcasting legend. We all also lost a dear friend who came into our homes with dignity and decency to tell them the news of the day. She was deeply dedicated to uncovering and conveying the truth of every story. She was there for almost 30 years to guide us through tragedy and triumph, and we miss her immensely.

My wife, Cynthia, and I extend our deepest sympathies to Denise's family during this difficult time, particularly to her husband, daughter, and coworkers. May their many wonderful memories of Denise provide them solace and comfort in the days ahead. ●

#### TRIBUTE TO DAN FREEDMAN

• Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Dan Freedman on the occasion of his retirement. Throughout his impressive 32 years as a correspondent in the Hearst Washington Bureau, Dan set an example of tireless, honest reporting. He undertook the monumental task of covering the Connecticut and New York delegations with rigor and expertise. Even as the media environment grows more

partisan, Dan has remained fair and dedicated to the facts.

Dan has helped build an essential professional foundation for countless reporters, mentoring hundreds of newcomers and interns and holding everyone—including himself—to the highest standards. Regarded with immense respect by his colleagues, he routinely challenged himself in order to set a better example for his team and raise the expectations for outstanding reporting.

In DC, legislators trust Dan to deliver a truthful and balanced story. This integrity is essential for the people of Connecticut who rely on reporters like Dan to inform them about the Nation's Capital with a focus on the stories that matter most to them and their communities. Constituents need to know their voices are being heard, and Dan is there to ask the tough questions and to deliver the most complete and honest reporting possible.

During an over four-decade career in journalism, Dan did it all—everything from dodging bullets in wars and insurrections in Central America to covering eight Supreme Court confirmation hearings and even a stint on the George W. Bush Presidential campaign in 2000. His unfailing commitment to his profession was recognized in 2018, when he won the David Lynch Memorial Award for Regional Reporting. Dan's outstanding record of thoughtful, honest, and determined reporting sets a model and demonstrates the critical role of reporters in keeping people throughout the country well informed.

I applaud his lifetime of dogged devotion to bringing the truth to light through fair, fact-filled pieces, and I know my colleagues will join me in thanking Dan for his extraordinary contributions to regional reporting.●

#### TRIBUTE TO ROBERT GREENSTEIN

● Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Robert Greenstein, founder and president of the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, for his work over nearly four decades, fighting for a more just and equal society.

Bob founded CBPP in 1981 to push for policies that expand opportunity for the lowest income children and families, and ensure that this country's prosperity is shared with the workers who create it, not just the wealthiest CEOs and the largest corporations. He built CBPP from the ground up and transformed it from a tiny organization with a shoestring budget to one of the most influential policy shapers in the country.

Under Bob's leadership, CBPP combined in-depth analysis and research with clear-headed strategy to drive the debate and deliver results. We worked together to spearhead efforts to permanently expand the earned income tax credit and child tax credit in 2015, and Bob was vital to our success. It is probably the most important thing we have done to life people out of poverty in the

last 25 years, and it could not have happened without Bob's leadership on this issue, stretching back decades.

Of course it is not only tax credits; from passing the Affordable Care Act to strengthening SNAP, from protecting and expanding Medicaid, to fighting for more affordable housing, Bob's work at CBPP has meant that millions of ordinary Americans have more food on the table, more money in their pockets, and a little more economic security. Over his career he has touched so many lives, and he has so much to be proud of.

We know we have a lot more work to do, and while Bob has earned his retirement, I have faith that he will continue to be a force for the progressive change that our country needs.●

#### TRIBUTE TO CHARLOTTE KINNOMAN

● Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week I have the honor of recognizing Charlotte Kinnoman of Lake County for her dedication to Montana's first responders during Christmas.

When Charlotte met a law enforcement officer at an event with her family, she learned of the sacrifices our first responders make to protect Montana's families and communities.

After that meeting, and at just 12 years old, Charlotte decided she wanted to give back to our first responders. She has been writing 125 Christmas cards a day to give to every first responder she meets. She even has a goal of writing 12,000 total. Charlotte's mom and classmates have also been helpful in writing Christmas cards to make sure they are spreading holiday cheer all across Big Sky Country.

I commend Charlotte for her compassion. Charlotte is a great role model for all young Montanans, and I thank her for supporting our first responders this Christmas season.●

#### TRIBUTE TO WERNER GELLERT

● Mr. UDALL. Mr. President, Werner Gellert survived the Holocaust and never forgot that terrible injustice. Werner went on to found a museum in Albuquerque dedicated not only to educating people about the Holocaust but dedicated to stopping intolerance wherever it is found.

Werner Gellert was born on June 14, 1926 in Breslau, Germany. During November 9 and 10, 1938, Nazi paramilitary forces carried out a pogrom throughout Germany demolishing and ransacking Jewish homes, businesses, synagogues, schools, and hospitals. At that time, 267 synagogues in Germany and surrounding areas and 7,000 Jewish businesses were destroyed and over 30,000 Jewish men were arrested and incarcerated in concentration camps. That pogrom was called Night of the Broken Glass, or Kristallnacht, meaning "Crystal Night," because of all the broken glass scattered throughout the streets from the shattered windows of Jewish buildings.

After the Night of the Broken Glass, Werner and his adopted parents fled Germany for Shanghai, one of the only places in the world at that time that accepted Jews unconditionally. However, the Japanese who were occupying Shanghai became allied with the Germans, and, on February 18, 1943, they issued a proclamation establishing a restricted area where "stateless refugees" must live and work. Werner and his family were relocated to this restricted area, Hongkew, which became plagued with disease and starvation. On one of his birthdays, Werner asked only for a loaf of bread and jar of jam for himself, but he didn't get his wish. During this period, he suffered through starvation, typhus, yellow fever, and hepatitis, and he was brutalized by a bully and permanently lost most of the sight in one of his eyes.

After the end of World War II, Werner remained in Shanghai, working as a typewriter repairman for the U.S. Army. The Army recognized his intelligence and linguistic skills—he spoke seven languages—and recruited him into Army intelligence as a civilian consultant. He worked undercover for the United States in China, Tibet, and the Philippines.

The Chinese Cultural Revolution of the late 1960s and early 1970s drove out Werner and his family, and they fortunately were able to escape on the last boat out of Shanghai to the United States. They relocated to Denver, where Werner attended Denver University and met his future wife, Frances Silverman—known as "Frankie"—to whom he was married for 54 years, until her passing in 2007.

After a successful career in the savings and loan business in California, Werner and Frankie retired to Albuquerque. Werner fervently believed that education was the most effective weapon against hate and intolerance. With that guiding principal in mind, in 2001, he and Frankie founded the Albuquerque Holocaust and Intolerance Museum.

The museum is dedicated to educating the public through its exhibitions on the horrors and injustices of hate—from the Holocaust, to the African-American experience here in the United States to genocide of minority peoples around the world. Its goal is to promote "upstanders," not bystanders: people who speak out and act to support individuals, groups, or causes attacked or bullied. The museum is home to the Library of Remembrance, a compilation of more than 4,500 books, documents, and videos about the injustice of genocide, bullying, and intolerance.

As long as he was able, well into his eighties, Werner spoke to school groups at the museum and around the State teaching them about his experience during the Holocaust and as a refugee in Shanghai. Werner took his own terrible experience and set about to make a better, more understanding, more tolerant world for others. While we lost Werner on November 9, 2019, at age 93,