

as an effort to deny the American people the right to decide the President's fate at the ballot box.

To transform impeachment into a partisan political weapon is to diminish and undermine its critical constitutional role.

Despite the factions which formed during this impeachment trial, I remain optimistic about the direction of our Nation. For all the bitter partisan emotions this impeachment process has enflamed, this Congress now has the opportunity to move on and focus on forging consensus to conduct the business of the American people. Congress has recently demonstrated this ability—enacting historic criminal justice reform, agreeing on reforms to improve the delivery of healthcare to our brave veterans, and approving a fair and free trade deal with America's two largest economic partners, producing a win for American workers and consumers.

I hope, when the record is written of this impeachment, that history will say that the Senate ultimately retained the high bar which must be met to remove a President, that the Senate rejected the temptation to normalize the impeachment process for partisan political gain, and that Congress turned the page following the President's acquittal to prioritize the needs of the American people and, in turn, solve the most pressing challenges facing our great Nation.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT J. JACKSON, JR.

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I rise to express my appreciation for the work of Securities and Exchange Commission: Robert J. Jackson, Jr. Commissioner Jackson stepped down earlier this month from the SEC, having served with distinction since December 2017. He returns to teaching, having made many valuable contributions to policy debates at the SEC and beyond.

Mr. Jackson is no stranger to public service. Prior to his work at the SEC, he served in the Treasury Department as the Nation emerged from the financial crisis. Mr. Jackson has led by example, working diligently to ensure the SEC fulfills its three-part mission, particularly the protection of investors in an increasingly complex marketplace. As an outspoken voice on behalf of investors, Mr. Jackson stressed the importance of clear and sensible rules that put investors first, combined with a pragmatic understanding of how markets work.

Mr. Jackson brought a law professor's analytical approach to his responsibilities as a Commissioner. His careful and thoughtful work digging through data, developing original research, and presenting it in a clear and insightful manner provided the SEC and other policymakers with critical information and a valuable perspective with which to consider some of the most difficult questions in securities laws.

Over the years, Commissioner Jackson has been a leader on the issue of corporate political spending disclosure. He has helped to focus the conversation on how to think about reasonable and material disclosure as our political system has become awash in dark money. Similarly, Mr. Jackson's study of trends in stock buybacks and the potential for abuse by corporate executives raised many issues that merit additional consideration by regulators and lawmakers.

I would like to lead my colleagues in wishing Mr. Jackson the best of luck as he returns to academia. I expect that he will continue his insightful research and scholarship to benefit investors and make markets more efficient. The SEC benefited from Commissioner Jackson's tenure, and we know his students will benefit, too.

TRIBUTE TO KIMBERLY HAZELGROVE

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, today I rise to honor Kimberly Hazelgrove for her service and sacrifices for our country and her successful efforts to advocate for families like her own who lost loved ones serving our Nation.

Kimberly Hazelgrove is a former sergeant first class in the U.S. Army. In 2004, her husband, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Brian Hazelgrove was killed in a helicopter crash near Mosul, Iraq. That loss was devastating enough, but after his death, Ms. Hazelgrove also lost the military benefits her family earned serving the United States and that she needed to support her family. They lost those benefits because of a 1970s-era law that causes Gold Star families to lose out on financial benefits that their spouses paid into and earned.

For 16 years, Ms. Hazelgrove advocated on Capitol Hill for the repeal of that law, the Survivor Benefit Plan-Disability and Indemnity Compensation offset, while raising her family as a single mother. She said, "I was angry . . . Very angry for the inequities that I was seeing, not only for myself, but for a lot of my friends going through it and it just lit a fire, and I found a stronger voice than I had before."

My office and I met with Ms. Hazelgrove and took up her cause. Gold Star families like hers have sacrificed so much for this country and nothing should get in the way of providing them with benefits that they have paid into and earned. We worked together with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to write legislation that will fix this, and this past December, because she never gave up, we got it done. We passed a fix in the Senate, and the President signed it into law. Because of Ms. Hazelgrove's perseverance and strong advocacy, 67,000 military spouses will now get the benefits they have earned to support themselves and their families.

Thank you, Kimberly, for raising your voice and for all the work you do

to fight for fellow Gold Star families. I am sure my Senate colleagues will join me in honoring Ms. Kimberly Hazelgrove for her exemplary efforts.

REMEMBERING JEFFREY HAMMOND LONG

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, I rise today to pay tribute to Jeffrey "Jeff" Hammond Long, an outstanding public servant and friend to many. Sadly, Jeff passed away on July 8, 2018. He was critically injured by a truck while riding his bike in Washington the previous day. Today, in honor of what would have been his 38th birthday, I wish to recognize Jeff's legacy of positivity.

Born in New York City, Jeff enrolled at Brunswick School in Greenwich, CT. Throughout his many years there, Jeff set an example for his fellow students. Not only did he mentor younger members of the community and cocaptain the lacrosse team, but he also served as president of the student body. Even after graduation, Jeff continued to serve the school as a result of the foundational experience he had at Brunswick.

Jeff studied at Hamilton College, where he was vice president of the student body and an Arthur Levitt Scholar. During his time at Hamilton, Jeff began his remarkable dedication to public service by interning for former President Clinton at the Clinton Foundation's New York office, as well as for Secretary Kerry's Presidential campaign and his U.S. Senate office.

I had the pleasure of first meeting Jeff in 2010. He worked in my Senate office for many years, serving as a legislative assistant on the energy, environment, and transportation portfolio. Jeff routinely demonstrated his extraordinary commitment to helping the people of Connecticut and the Nation. A diligent and bright member of my team, he always put the needs of others before his own, focusing on serving the people of Connecticut with tireless care and patience.

His incredible wife, Kaylie—another Connecticut native and devoted public servant—continues to honor his memory by doing acts of kindness on Jeff's birthday. She and their friends are guided by his motto: "It's cool to be nice."

Jeff's natural inclination to support others and bring smiles to people's faces touched countless lives from Connecticut to DC, and everywhere in between. He helped everyone around him find a positive side to any situation or take a moment to appreciate even the smallest parts of life.

I am grateful for the considerate and warm outlook Jeff brought wherever he went, and I know his memory will forever serve as a model of selflessness and unfailing devotion. My wife Cynthia and I extend our warmest thoughts to Kaylie, as well as to Jeff's parents, Nancy and David, and I hope my colleagues will join me in acknowledging Jeff's incredible impact.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DR. PHOEBE STEIN

• Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I would like to take a few moments to thank and congratulate Dr. Phoebe Stein for her lifetime commitment to advancing the humanities. At the end of this week, Phoebe will leave her post as the executive director at Maryland Humanities, a position she has held for more than 11 years. But Maryland's loss is the Nation's gain. Effective May 1, Phoebe will succeed Esther Mackintosh as president of the Federation of State Humanities Councils. The federation is the national member association of the 56 State and jurisdictional humanities councils. The Federation's purpose is "to provide leadership, advocacy, and information to help members advance programs that engage millions of citizens across diverse populations in community and civic life." I can't think of anyone better suited for the job.

Phoebe, a Maryland native, arrived at Maryland Humanities in 2008 after serving as the director of public affairs at the Illinois Humanities Council, now called Illinois Humanities. She received her B.A. in English from the University of Michigan and her M.A. and Ph.D. in English from Loyola University of Chicago.

Phoebe has effectively advocated for the humanities at the local, State, and Federal level for more than 20 years. Even though Phoebe became executive director at Maryland Humanities at the beginning of the Great Recession, she managed to expand the council's partnerships, programs, staff, financial support and other resources, and, most importantly, its reach. She hosted a radio spot, "Humanities Connection," while advancing several of the council's flagship programs, including Maryland History Day, Museum on Main Street, and One Maryland One Book. The organization now offers more than 1,000 free events annually in partnership with more than 500 organizations in more than 150 communities statewide.

Phoebe has brought Maryland History Day winners to meet with their elected representatives at the Maryland State House and here at the U.S. Capitol. She helped to foster a responsive environment following the death of Freddie Gray in 2015 and launch a Humanities Fund for Baltimore. She introduced student authors to author Chimamanda Ngozi Adiche at One Maryland One Book events in 2017. Through it all, Phoebe has been a joyful and indefatigable advocate, coming up to the Hill or to Annapolis to lobby or traveling throughout Maryland to bring the humanities to the people. In 2016, "The Daily Record" rightfully recognized Phoebe as one of Maryland's Top 100 Women.

The National Endowment for the Humanities, NEH, provides funding to State humanities councils through

NEH's Federal/State Partnership Office. The councils also receive funding from private donations, foundations, corporations, and from the States themselves. This year, we will celebrate the 55th anniversary of the NEH's creation. On September 29, 1965, President Lyndon Johnson signed the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act into law. The act called for the creation of the NEH and the National Endowment for the Arts, NEA, as separate, independent agencies. More than 200 people filled the Rose Garden for the bill signing ceremony, including Gregory Peck, Dumas Malone, Ansel Adams, Ralph Ellison, Walter Gropius, and Paul Mellon.

President Trump's fiscal year 2021 budget request once again tentatively proposes to terminate the NEH, the NEA, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. In previous years, Congress has ignored these proposals, and I am optimistic we will do so again this year. I would note that Federal funding for the NEH peaked in 1994 in nominal terms at \$177.5 million; in inflation-adjusted terms—2019 dollars—Federal funding peaked in 1979 at nearly three times its current level.

On a per capita basis, Federal funding for the NEH amounts to less than the cost of a single postage stamp. That is a rather paltry investment since, as author and essayist Mark Slouka wrote in his book, "Essays from the Nick of Time: Reflections and Refutations," "[T]he humanities are a superb delivery mechanism for what we might call democratic values." He went on to say:

The case for the humanities is not hard to make, though it can be difficult—to such an extent have we been marginalized, so long have we acceded to that marginalization—not to sound either defensive or naive. The humanities, done right, are the crucible in which our evolving notions of what it means to be fully human are put to the test; they teach us, incrementally, endlessly, not what to do, but how to be. Their method is confrontational, their domain unlimited, their "product" not truth but the reasoned search for truth, their "success" something very much like Frost's momentary stay against confusion.

Phoebe Stein understands how important the humanities are to our individual, collective, and civic well-being. While we Marylanders will miss her at Maryland Humanities, all Americans are fortunate that she will be heading the federation, where her passionate advocacy will extend beyond Baltimore, the Eastern Shore, and the Cumberland Narrows to redound to the benefit of people and communities across our Nation.●

REMEMBERING ANTHONY J. MAY

• Mr. CASEY. Madam President, today I wish to honor the distinguished life and career of Anthony J. May, who passed away on January 20, 2020.

Tony worked for more than 30 years as a political strategist and journalist,

leaving his mark on Pennsylvania politics. He used his deep knowledge of Pennsylvania history to assist many in trying to find the best way forward, including during his time as executive director of the Pennsylvania Democratic Party. He served as the communications director and press secretary for my father, Governor Robert P. Casey, as well as press secretary for Governor Milton J. Shapp and as communications director under House Speakers K. Leroy Irvis and James J. Manderino. Most recently, he worked at Triad Strategies, a communications and public relations firm in Harrisburg, as Partner Emeritus.

Tony also served the public as a journalist and political analyst for various newspapers in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and New Jersey, and as an editor for the Associated Press. In these roles, in addition to being past chair of the Pennsylvania Public Television Network, he worked tirelessly to keep the public informed and to support journalists and journalism wherever and whenever he could.

Tony was a legend in Pennsylvania for decades, and his legacy will be felt for years to come. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Betsy; his children, Crispin, Amy, and Cybele; his five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren; and all of Tony's family and friends as they mourn his loss.●

RECOGNIZING THE WEST FARGO PACKATAHNAS

• Mr. CRAMER. Madam President, the West Fargo, ND, dance team, the Packatahnas, has returned home from the National Dance Team Competition in Florida as national high kick champions.

This comes after winning championship titles competing this year with the Class A Large Varsity schools in North Dakota. It is always cause for celebration when students bring home a championship title, but this year's award is one of several the team has won.

After more than eight high kick first place finishes at the State level in the past 25 years, the Packatahnas were back-to-back national champions in 2006 and 2007. Now 14 years later and after finishing ahead of 22 other national teams, it has been especially meaningful for these teammates to place another trophy in the school's award case.

The passion, dedication, and time the Packatahnas devote to their dance team season rival that of other high school student athletes. For several hours every day, they first work to develop their routines. Then it is practice, practice, and more practice until they are ready for competition.

At their side throughout this year was their coach, Shayla Pennick, whom they credit for her commitment to them in this successful season. Shayla knows the thrill they feel as champions because she competed with