

looking ahead means the ability to reopen, and that means stimulating the economy and creating—whether it is tax relief or whether it is smart investment in infrastructure. Let's say the projects that are already on the books in my State and yours, projects that are already shovel-ready because they are ready to go, they have gone through the merit-based process in our States, but many of those projects will not be able to be funded this year by our States. Why? Because their revenues have collapsed, particularly their gas taxes have collapsed. So the State match, which is based on the amount of gas you buy, has gone down because people aren't driving nearly as much.

What if we picked up some of that at the Federal level? These are good projects because they aren't bridges to nowhere. They have been through the merit-based process, and they are ready to go. That is an idea. Why? It is good jobs, one, which are needed right now, and good benefits, but also it is economic benefit. Those dollars will come back in terms of improved roads and bridges and ports and airports.

Rural broadband would really help right now. As people are telelearning and teleworking more and more, they are finding out: Oh, my gosh, there are big parts of our country that don't have broadband access, can't get Wi-Fi, and if you can, it is way too slow.

Again, talking to the Farm Bureau today, you would think they would be talking about the price of corn and soybeans, and they were, and the huge issues we have right now in the beef industry and the pork industry and poultry, but they were also talking about: I got my kids at home and we can't do the homework because we can't get broadband in a lot of parts of Ohio—probably in about a third of our State. Ohio is not viewed as a State that has huge, sparsely populated rural areas, but we have enough, and we have a real lack of access to broadband to be able even to do schoolwork, much less to start a small business.

So this is another area where we can provide some help for that here, and it would come back in terms of increased dollars from having more economic development in some of these rural areas. So I think there are some things we need to do there as well.

There has been a lot of discussion about this issue of liability protection. Let me tell you my perspective on this. It is very simple. This should not be a partisan issue. I mean, we should not want these hospitals and these schools and these small businesses and anybody to be able to be sued for something that was totally out of their control. This is not something anybody should be blamed for, certainly in this country. We know where it started, in Hubei Province, in Wuhan, China. But as for the fact that this has come over here and people are affected by it, let's not have a trial lawyer bonanza here because that will result in people not getting back to work. It will result in more costs for our universities.

I understand some of them are being sued right now because they have students who are telelearning. Well, yes, it is not their fault. You can't bring students together right now in the dormitories. It is not safe.

I know there is, again, kind of a partisan nature to this. It shouldn't be partisan at all. We should all want people to go back to work, to be able to go back to school, to be able to access the healthcare system.

I also think that for my colleagues on my side of the aisle who might want to make this broader than the coronavirus, let's keep it to the coronavirus, and I think that is what people intend. Let's keep it to COVID-19, and let's provide the kind of protections—sensible protections—that are necessary to be able to allow people to get back to a normal life.

People say: Well, things are going to be so different now in America. They will be different. We will be more cautious. You know, we will probably, therefore, have a less drastic flu season too because we will be more careful.

With this pandemic, you know, we don't know if it is going to come back again like it did a couple of months ago. Will it come back again in the fall or the winter like that, but we have to be prepared for that. So life will not be exactly the same. There is no question about it. There will be some things that will be different, too. There will be more teleworking because it is has worked well. It is cost effective, and it is efficient. There will be more telemedicine because it has worked well.

I have talked to a number of doctors who were actually very pleased with some of the things they have been able to do remotely. I hope we will have a Congress that works more remotely so when we are on our recesses, as we do every August, and as we do periodically, that we could have remote hearings on a more regular basis because it is great information.

But, ultimately, I think our country will get back on track. Again, we, as Americans, when we get knocked down, we get back up on our feet, and that is what we will do. And we will have again not just the greatest economy on the face of the Earth, but we again will be that beacon of hope and opportunities for the rest of the world. People will again look at America and say: I want to be like that. And we will be able to show that and how we get back on our feet and how we get back to a more normal life, and, once again, the greatest country on the face of this Earth will be able to once again be able to show the world an ideal for everyone to aspire to.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF FIRSTLINK

• Mr. CRAMER. Mr. President, I want to recognize the 50th anniversary this month of FirstLink, a vital North Da-

kota organization which provides free and confidential mental health, suicide prevention, and other services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

FirstLink offers listening and support, resource referrals and crisis intervention. Across the entire State of North Dakota and parts of Minnesota, FirstLink answers calls for 17 agencies, notably the 211 helpline and the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. Those reaching out for help now have the ability to also communicate by text messaging at 898-211.

Last year, FirstLink answered 60,148 calls. Of those, 13,446 were related to suicide. Its Caring Contacts service receives referrals from hospitals and clinics across North Dakota in addition to the phone calls that come in. Caring Contacts offers informal resources and coping strategies, encourages mental health treatment, and provides nonjudgmental listening and support. These calls are offered around the schedules of the individuals in need. Additional training is also offered to staff and volunteers from other State organizations working with people of all ages.

FirstLink began as a grassroots volunteer organization in the Fargo area, first taking calls 6 hours a day. It has grown in hours and scope, thanks to private and public support, a staff of 20, a 12-member board, and many volunteers.

The profound impact of the work FirstLink has done over these past 50 years can never be adequately measured. On behalf of all North Dakotans, I congratulate and sincerely thank executive director Cindy Miller and all staff and volunteers for the difference their commitment has made to the quality of life in our State. May your next 50 years be just as meaningful.●

TRIBUTE TO THE SALEM HIGH SCHOOL CHEERLEADING TEAM

• Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I am proud to recognize Salem High School's cheerleading team as April's Granite Staters of the Month for coming together, even while social distancing, to help raise the spirits of residents at a local nursing home.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Salem's cheerleading team was unable to compete at their New England conference meet, a moment that the athletes had worked hard for all season. In an effort to cheer up her teammates, as well as bring joy to residents at their local nursing home, Gabrielle Driggers, a sophomore on the team, suggested throwing a parade for the residents, which included Gabrielle's grandmother.

Gabrielle, who has led previous efforts to support her local community by organizing donation drives and fundraisers with the help of her teammates, texted the team's group chat to see if anyone would be willing to participate in a parade for residents at

Salemhaven Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. A few days later, between 25 to 30 members of the cheerleading team gathered in the Salem High School parking lot, pom-poms in hand, to greet their fellow teammates from the safety of their cars and prepare for the procession to the nursing home.

The parade, which was carefully planned to ensure that all of the athletes were at least 6 feet away from one another and the residents, consisted of a line of cars where cheerleaders, one to a car, waved their pom-poms and blasted music to the delight of the residents.

I commend the members of the Salem High School cheerleading team for recognizing the importance of ensuring that those who are the most vulnerable to the virus feel supported and seen during this public health emergency. This is a difficult time for all Americans, which is why this straightforward act of kindness and recognition of community resonates with Granite Staters and all Americans and reflects the very best of our State.●

TRIBUTE TO DARREL ANDERSON

● Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, I rise today to honor an outstanding business leader from the great State of Idaho—Idaho Power CEO Darrel Anderson.

There are many ways to define an effective leader: by their vision, their passion, or their courage to do something bold. Mr. Anderson possesses all the necessary qualifications and more. His impeccable character, his authenticity, and his humility define his success not only as CEO but also as an upstanding Idaho citizen, family man and friend.

Mr. Anderson's tenure as president and CEO has been one for the records. He led Idaho Power's parent company, IDACORP, to a historic 12 consecutive years of earnings growth—an unprecedented achievement among investor-owned utilities in the United States. In 2019, the company saw the best employee safety results ever recorded in its history, something Mr. Anderson cares deeply about. Under his leadership, Idaho Power also experienced the highest customer satisfaction scores ever achieved.

Business results like these deserve recognition. But if you ask any one of Idaho Power's nearly 2,000 employees, they will tell you Mr. Anderson's legacy will not be the company's impressive numbers; it will be that he knew their name, showed up for them in good times and bad and encouraged them to make a commitment to one another every single day. Mr. Anderson made employees feel valued and respected. He acknowledged individual contributions and inspired employees to do the same.

On June 1, after nearly 24 years with the company and serving at its helm since 2014, Darrel Anderson is retiring. I send my sincerest congratulations to

my friend and wish him all the best on his well-deserved retirement. Idaho Power's reliable, affordable and clean energy helps make our great State the ideal place to live, and I am grateful for his exceptional leadership of this outstanding company.●

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF MISSION AVIATION FELLOWSHIP

● Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, for myself and Mr. CRAPO, I want to recognize a very special nonprofit organization in our State that is celebrating its 75th anniversary on May 20. Mission Aviation Fellowship, or MAF, headquartered in Nampa, ID, was formed on May 20, 1945, by veteran pilots who returned from World War II with a vision that airplanes could be used for peaceful means, bringing medicine, education, and the gospel to isolated people around the world.

One of their founding members, Betty Greene, served as their first pilot, becoming the first woman to fly over the Andes in South America and the first female pilot in Sudan as she traveled the world on behalf of MAF. Betty also received a Congressional Gold Medal for her wartime service as a women Airforce service pilot, WASP. She piloted MAF's very first flight from La Habra, CA, to Tuxpan, Mexico, and little did she know at the time that Mission Aviation Fellowship would eventually partner with over 500 organizations in 13 countries, delivering medical services and vaccines, assisting with disaster response, and offering physical help and spiritual hope for those living in the farthest reaches of the world.

Their work among the most isolated people on our planet often goes unnoticed, but in 1956, the world was captivated by the story of MAF pilot Nate Saint and four other missionaries who were martyred on the banks of the Curaray River in Ecuador at the hands of Waorani warriors. Undeterred, MAF continued to expand its operations around the world, and in 2006, they moved their headquarters to Nampa, ID, to provide their pilots with quality backcountry flight training, favorable weather, and lower cost of operations.

The Nampa headquarters hosts MAF's maintenance and training facility, along with all of the back-office functions for its programs around the world. The nearly 200 local employees and 300 volunteers support another 400 staff members in foreign countries. MAF has a fleet of 47 airplanes that includes 13 Kodiaks that are made in Sandpoint, ID, and are especially well-suited for the short, rugged mountain top and jungle landing strips in the areas they serve.

Throughout their 75-year history, MAF has brought physical help and spiritual hope to those living at the ends of the Earth—even in the midst of wars, disease, and natural disasters. They look to serve those that are forgotten by the rest of the world, and I

congratulate them on their 75 years of service and thank them for being there to provide hope and deliver needed resources in some of the world's most challenging places to reach.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REPORT OF THE VETO OF S.J. RES. 68, A JOINT RESOLUTION TO DIRECT THE REMOVAL OF UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES FROM HOSTILITIES AGAINST THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN THAT HAVE NOT BEEN AUTHORIZED BY CONGRESS—PM 54

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, spread in full upon the Journal, and held at the desk:

To the Senate of the United States:

I am returning herewith without my approval S.J. Res. 68, a joint resolution that purports to direct the President to terminate the use of United States Armed Forces in hostilities against Iran. This indefinite prohibition is unnecessary and dangerous. It would weaken the President's authority in violation of Article II of the Constitution, and endanger the lives of American citizens and brave service members.

This joint resolution is unnecessary because it rests upon a faulty premise. Due to my decisive actions and effective policies, the United States is not engaged in the use of force against Iran. As Commander in Chief, I will always defend our Nation against threats to our security.

In response to an escalating series of attacks by Iran and Iranian-backed militias on United States forces and interests in the Middle East, on January 2, 2020, United States Armed Forces eliminated Qassem Soleimani, the head of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps-Qods Force as he was traveling in Iraq. The purposes of this strike were to protect United States personnel, deter Iran from conducting or supporting further attacks against