

He was an excellent steward of my priorities on the Finance Committee, so much so they stole him from me. At the time I told him, “Listen, you still work for me, you are just sitting down the hall.”

To illustrate Chris’ popularity, I would like to share this story.

There is an annual, all-day legislative meeting held in Washington for a Kansas group that requires a lot of preparation. My staff must be able to speak about a variety of topics and difficult issues before an audience of at least 100 Kansans. At one of these such meetings, Chris had just left my office to work at tax nerd nirvana, the Senate Finance Committee. I called him back to answer a few tax questions while my new staffer transitioned into the role. Before Chris was scheduled to arrive, a number of questions about taxes came up and my staff deferred to him, mentioning they would wait for the “real tax guy” to show up. Their repeated deference to him built up a feeling of anticipation in the room. At long last, Chris strolls in, and heads swivel around to the back of the room to see the great tax man cometh. It was like Elvis had entered the building. The audience got to their feet and gave him a standing ovation. One man was even moved to testify how Chris had helped his community on a rural tax issue and it had made all of the difference. And at the front of the room on the panel, there sat Chris in his dapper jacket, his head tilted back and his beaming smile. He loved to help and they loved him.

Whether it was the tax reform bill or pension legislation, Chris’ brilliant mind made the measure better—every time. And his work will have a long lasting influence on our Nation and literally millions of Americans. What a career Chris Allen had.

Everyone in this room will probably agree that Chris’s best stories were about himself, and he was usually his own punchline. Something had happened to him. He had messed something up, or he had gleefully embarrassed his daughters. You can hear him now. I was a bit player in one of his favorite tales. It was his first Finance Committee hearing working for me. Chris had prepped for days—weeks probably. He was both nervous and excited. As we walked over to the committee room, he told me he was calling Lynda, hoping she could watch the hearing on CSPAN and catch him sitting behind the dais.

So I decided to have a little fun with Chris. As the time for questions got to the Senator next to me, I very dramatically motioned to Chris. Chris looked shocked—I am sure he was thinking, “Oh no, what could I have forgotten to tell him.” Chris leaned in, and I put my hand to the side of my mouth: “Chris, this is your moment. Look very serious. Nod your head a few times. Now point at the paper I am holding—now tell me something very crucial . . . we are going to make sure Lynda sees you!”

Chris got the biggest kick out of it, and we met the goal—he was on CSPAN. So while we take the issues and the policy very seriously, and we negotiate very intensely—and Chris could sure do that—we can also stop for a minute to appreciate where we are and what a privilege it is to do these jobs. As I said, Chris never forgot or took it for granted. He appreciated every minute in the Senate.

I understand Lucie has shared a link to a Google doc for Chris’s friends and loved ones to share their “short but interesting stories about Chris.” I encourage everyone to do so. These stories will be a treasure trove for Lynda, Sophie, and Lucie. I hope you can preserve them in some way with his genealogy work. I know he would like that.

I will conclude with a note to Lynda and the girls: I always say you are only as good as your staff; it is your friends and family who make you what you are. In my office, staff are family. Chris was family; you will always be family. Besides, Chris still works for me. He is just sitting and smiling a few floors up.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING OXFORD-BELLEVUE FERRY

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I am proud to name Oxford-Bellevue Ferry, believed to be our Nation’s oldest privately owned ferry, as the U.S. Senate Small Business of the Week.

Currently owned and operated by Judy and Tom Bixler, the ferry has transported residents and tourists between the towns of Oxford and Bellevue across the Tred Avon River since 1683—more than 90 years before the Colonies came together to form the United States, making it one of the oldest companies in the country.

Over the past three centuries, the ferry has become a part of the fabric of the community, with some residents calling it “the pulse of the river.” Residents have also come to associate the sound of the ferry’s engine with the turning of the seasons: the first sounds mark the beginning of spring, while the ferry’s final rumble of the year lets them know that fall has arrived.

Tom and Judy purchased the ferry route and moved to Maryland in 2001. Since then, they have not only been good stewards of the ferry’s history, but they have become pillars in the Oxford community and leaders in Maryland’s tourism industry.

Last year, Judy was appointed chair of the Maryland Tourism Development Board, where she advocates for Maryland’s tourism industry and helps market Maryland as a tourist destination. In 2018, Tom and Judy were awarded the Community Impact Award by the Talbot County Department of Economic Development and Tourism for their commitment to serving Talbot County, its visitors, and its residents.

I was proud to stand with Tom and Judy for the Oxford-Bellevue Ferry’s 325th anniversary celebration in 2008 and am proud to recognize their continued success today. I hope the ferry will still be transporting Marylanders and tourists across the Tred Avon River for many years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO LINDA ROST

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week I have the honor of recognizing Linda Rost of Fallon County for being named Montana’s 2020 Teacher of the Year.

Linda is a highly qualified science teacher at Baker High School with a master’s degree in science education from Montana State University. Linda has been inspiring students and motivating them to dig deeper when it comes to science education. The folks in Fallon County are very proud of Linda’s prestigious recognition.

Because of the size of Baker High School, Linda teaches multiple age groups. While it is a joy, it is also one of the many challenges that comes from teaching at a small rural school. Linda goes above and beyond to find a variety of ways to connect with each student ensuring they understand the course material in a fun and engaging way.

The Montana Teacher of the Year award is a long and competitive process. After interacting with several selection committees made up of top education leaders from across Montana, Linda was selected as the 2020 winner. Linda will now go on to represent Montana in the 2020 National Teacher of the Year competition.

It is my honor to recognize Linda for her dedication to teaching young Montanans. Fallon County and Montana are very fortunate to have a teacher like Linda to ensure that our rural students are getting the highest quality education possible.●

TRIBUTE TO KARTHIK AND RAHUL CHALUMURI

• Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I am proud to recognize Karthik and Rahul Chalumuri of Keene as January 2020’s Granite Staters of the Month for their efforts to organize donation drives at their school to support patients at a local cancer center.

Karthik and Rahul, fraternal twins attending Keene High School, have been involved in their local community from a young age. When they were 5 years old, their parents brought them to volunteer at their local soup kitchen, and helped instill in them the importance of giving back to their community.

As they headed into their senior year at Keene High School, these two young men decided that they wanted to give back in a big way before they headed off to college. They founded a club at their school, Students for Hope, to organize donation drives with the intent

of sending care packages to Cheshire Medical Center's Norris Cotton Cancer Center-Kingsbury Pavilion, which would distribute the care packages to their patients. Rahul, who plans to study computer science in college, designed the group's website from scratch to provide resources on how to donate.

The group began their first donation drive in August. The brothers had low expectations for turnout and were shocked when local businesses and individuals in their community came together to donate a substantial amount of items for these care packages.

Since then, they have organized two more donation drives around both Thanksgiving and Christmas and plan to hold another one in February around Valentine's Day. Although Rahul and Karthik are heading to college in the fall, they have tapped younger students to lead the organization next year.

I want to commend Rahul and Karthik for their dedication to improving the lives of people who are less fortunate and recruiting others to do the same. I know I join the rest of the Keene community and all Granite Staters in thanking Rahul and Karthik for exemplifying the all-hands-on-deck spirit of New Hampshire.●

TRIBUTE TO CARL ADRIAN

• Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a close friend, ally, and devoted public servant, Mr. Carl Adrian, as he retires from a 16-year career supporting our national security, environmental cleanup, economic growth, job creation, and furthering the ever-expanding missions of the Hanford Nuclear Reservation and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, PNNL, as well as advancements in innovation and more tied to each of these in my home State of Washington.

Mr. Adrian, retiring president and CEO of Tri-Cities Development Council—TRIDEC—began his service to the Pasco, Richland, West Richland, and Kennewick cities, also known as the TriCities, on September 1, 2003. Mr. Adrian arrived in the Tri-Cities as a transplant, being born and raised in Omaha, NE, where he graduated from Westside High School. Mr. Adrian then obtained his bachelor of arts in political science, geography, and later a masters of administration in urban and economic geography from the University of Iowa.

Prior to Mr. Adrian's tenure with TRIDEC, he spent significant time supporting economic development throughout the central region of the United States through his work with multiple organizations. He served communities in Casper, WY, the Quad-City area of both Iowa and Illinois, and Cedar Valley located in Waterloo/Cedar Falls, IA, before embarking upon his last enterprise in the Tri-Cities.

Mr. Adrian has devoted his life to supporting commerce and new innovation in the region. In his role at

TRIDEC, Mr. Adrian has been one of the Tri-Cities most effective advocates to Congress, frequently working to ensure members of Washington State's congressional delegation were abreast of the concerns and needs of the community while also helping to strengthen federal support for Central Washington priorities, including working to successfully expand Washington State's wine industry, signing vital MOUs with Hong Kong to bolster the local economy, and more. Mr. Adrian's dedication to inclusive collaboration ensures important stakeholders are never left uninformed on the needs of the Tri-Cities area, and through his robust advocacy, the region has seen significant population and economic growth as well as industry expansion, offering many Tri-Citians a new path to the American Dream.

As TRIDEC's longest-serving president, Mr. Adrian has successfully led efforts to help expand the Tri-Cities airport and offer nonstop daily flights to key regional airports; create the Manhattan Project National Historical Park in 2015; promote services to attract, retain, and improve commerce and economic development throughout the region, which led to significant job growth, population growth, and the development of several new business ventures in the Tri-Cities.

It is clear to me that Washington State has benefited greatly from Mr. Adrian's vision and passion for promoting what the Tri-Cities community, its workforce, the Hanford Site, and PNNL have to offer, as I have seen firsthand both at home and in the other Washington. His work is evident in the progress that has been made on environmental cleanup at Hanford, as well as his work to help plan a future for the Tri-Cities that looks past cleanup operations towards preserving the region's rich history through designations of the B Reactor as a National Historic Landmark and Manhattan Project National Historical Park, and seeking out new, emerging opportunities like small modular reactors to help grow additional economic opportunities in the region and boost Washington State's leadership role in cutting-edge energy technologies to combat climate change. Through all of this, he has remained as committed as they come. Last August, when I had the good fortune to get one more visit with Mr. Adrian at PNNL, I was unsurprised that he still carried the same enthusiasm and pride for his work as he did during his first visit with me in 2003.

Mr. Adrian has been critical to my work in the U.S. Senate to ensure the Federal Government is keeping its commitments to central Washington, and he has made a tremendous impact on the Tri-Cities community, Washington State, and our Nation. Today, I join with others throughout the State of Washington in thanking him for his many years of service. I congratulate Mr. Carl Adrian on his retirement and

wish him and his wife Rheta the best of luck as they write their next chapter together.●

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT LONG

• Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, would like to congratulate one of my fellow Idahoans, Robert Long, on winning first place in the Mongol Derby. This annual competition held in August brings people from around the world to race across the Mongolian Steppe on horseback. Robert finished the course without any setbacks. This is truly one of the toughest tests of skill and endurance for any horseman or woman, and I am proud that an Idahoan represented the United States with such excellence.

The Mongol Derby course follows the ancient path of Genghis Khan's horse messenger system first set up over 800 years ago. The course crosses 600 miles of some of Mongolia's harshest terrain and takes riders over a week to complete. Contestants are not only challenged by the terrain but also by the traditional methods of the race. The hundreds of horses that shoulder the journey are recruited from the local Mongolians' herds. Riders change horses every 25 miles, just as the ancient Mongols did. Thus, contestants must have the skill to adapt to each new mount and the instinct to ride within the limits of its strengths and weaknesses. Although the riders are racing towards the finish, they are also responsible for taking care of their horses' wellbeing and ensuring they are not overworked or injured during the journey. Robert's experience with animals helped him to win the race without any veterinary penalties.

Robert's victory was surely an outcome of his extensive experience working with horses on the American Western terrain. "Cowboy Bob," as he is known by his close friends, was raised in Wyoming and now lives in Boise, IA. He trained for the Mongol Derby across the American West, where the rough terrain is not so different from that of the Mongolian Steppe.

Robert not only made an impression as a master horseman but also as a gracious guest. The course covers a vast area inhabited by Mongolian nomad herders, who volunteer their horses for the competitors in the race at each stop. Robert presented each herder with a blue ribbon from his past competitions, which he brought after learning the significance of the color blue in Mongolia, the Land of Eternal Blue Sky.

In taking part in this race and performing with thoughtfulness and mastery, Robert exemplified how well Americans can relate to other peoples and cultures. U.S.-Mongolia relations have been growing stronger since our two nations established diplomatic ties over 30 years ago. That the Mongol Derby attracts riders from across the world demonstrates Mongolia's ability to build global connections through