

belief in taking tangible actions to tackle big challenges.

Sadly, Commander Hannon lost his courageous fight with post-traumatic stress, bipolar disorder, and the effects of a traumatic brain injury in February 2018. However, he lives on in the memories of his friends and family and as the namesake of pivotal legislation in the Senate that I am pleased to lead with the Senator from Montana, Mr. TESTER.

For several months now, our committee has been working closely with the VA and the White House to improve upon and advance the Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act, S. 785, which will make necessary investments in suicide prevention services, innovative research, and improvements to mental healthcare.

This bill will establish a grant program that requires the VA and the Department of Veterans Affairs to better collaborate with community organizations across the country already serving veterans. This collaboration will result in earlier identification of veterans who are at risk of suicide and will provide the ability to intervene with preventive services. This is a provision championed by my colleague from Arkansas, Senator BOOZMAN. Additionally, this legislation requires the VA to bolster research efforts around brain and mental health conditions, expand upon telehealth partnerships to deliver better care to our veterans in rural areas, allow veterans to take advantage of emerging complimentary and integrative treatments, and so much more.

This bipartisan legislation received a unanimous 17-to-0 vote in the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs earlier this year, and the time to act by the full Senate is now. We should not wait.

The increased risk factors coupled with the negative effects of the pandemic could be a perfect storm for our veterans, as researchers from the American Psychological Association noted in a recent article. With this in mind, I am calling on my colleagues to do our part to make certain that every veteran has access to the lifesaving care and support they need. We need to ensure that every VA medical center is equipped with the proper personnel, evidence-based treatment options, and best research-informed care to fit the needs of each veteran who walks through that hospital door.

For veterans and servicemembers like Commander John Scott Hannon and Master Sergeant Marckesano, we in Congress have the opportunity to take action to let them know they don't have to struggle alone. This legislation will help connect these veterans and our servicemembers to more resources and provide them tools to address challenges related to their service. To my colleagues, we have a significant role and responsibility to combat this struggle, and here, today, we can do our part to make certain that in the end the valley does not win.

In the spirit of this bill's namesake, we must take real and urgent action to tackle this challenge together. As we seek swift action on S. 785 on the Senate floor, I ask my colleagues to join us in our fight against suicide.

Lastly, to the veterans across the country who may hear this message today, who are experiencing thoughts of suicide, I ask you to reach out for help. Call a trusted friend, family member, or reach out to the Veterans Crisis Line. That number is 1-800-273-8255, and then press 1. Again, 1-800-273-8255, followed by pressing 1.

I am pleased to know that in the future, this crisis line will be updated to 9-8-8. This is because the Senate acted on my legislation, along with Senator GARDNER, to designate 9-8-8 as the new national suicide and mental health crisis hotline earlier this year. Last week, the FCC announced they will make this designation operational by July 16, 2022.

Suicide is preventable, and now is the time we take the stand necessary to protect the lives of people who have given so much for our Nation. They have protected us; we need to protect them.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

REMEMBERING JOHN LEWIS

Mrs. LOEFFLER. Madam President, in downtown Atlanta at the corner of Auburn Avenue and Jesse Hill Jr Drive, there is a 65-foot mural of Congressman John Lewis with the lone caption: "Hero."

I personally got to see it yesterday from the Downtown Connector, the major interstate that runs through the heart of Atlanta, as I drove to Hartsfield-Jackson airport. I was struck by the void left by his passing, not only in Georgia, but across our entire country.

When parents teach their children about courage and the fight for freedom and equality, the story of Congressman John Lewis will be told. He dedicated his entire life to pushing America to live up to its promises. He championed nonviolent protests. He stood for community, justice, and love.

Congressman Lewis's story has inspired millions. At just 18, he wrote to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., when he sought to attend the all-White Troy State University. He went on to become a leader in the civil rights movement. He organized sit-ins at segregated lunch counters in Nashville. He was on the buses during the 1961 Freedom Rides. He was the youngest speaker at the 1963 March on Washington. He was brutally beaten while leading peaceful demonstrators across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, AL.

For the last 33 years, he served Georgia in the U.S. House of Representatives, where he was known as "the conscience of Congress." He was also known for his many bipartisan friendships. One of them was with my predecessor, Senator Johnny Isakson, a true

statesman. They shared a powerful moment last year on the House floor when Congressman Lewis embraced him during farewell speeches to the Senator, one of the most touching moments in Congress's recent history.

Sadly, Congressman Lewis was not the only civil rights icon we lost last week. Georgia also lost Reverend C.T. Vivian. Both he and Congressman Lewis were champions of peaceful, non-violent protest. I hope we can honor their legacy by using nonviolent means as we strive toward equality and a more perfect union.

Georgians cannot think of our beloved State without thinking of these and so many other civil rights icons and leaders like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Our Nation is better because of their leadership and their courage. Their legacy will never be forgotten.

May God comfort the Lewis and Vivian families during this incredibly difficult time.

(The remarks of Mrs. LOEFFLER pertaining to the introduction of S. 4238 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mrs. LOEFFLER. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mrs. LOEFFLER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MAGGIE BLACK

● Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Maggie for her hard work as an intern in my Cheyenne office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Maggie is a native of Cheyenne. She is a student at Christendom College, where she is studying political science and economics. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Maggie for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her next journey.●

TRIBUTE TO DELANEY BOWERS

• Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Delaney for her hard work as an intern in my Rock Springs office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Delaney is a native of Green River. She is a student at Western Wyoming Community College, where she is studying biology and mathematics. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Delaney for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her next journey.●

TRIBUTE TO SYDNEY DE VAULT-GARVEY

• Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Sydney for her hard work as an intern in my Sheridan office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Sydney is a native of Colorado. She is a student at the University of Wyoming, where she is studying political science. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Sydney for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her next journey.●

TRIBUTE TO VINCHINZO HINOJOS-CASTLE

• Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Vinny for his hard work as an intern in the Environment and Public Works Committee. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Vinny is a native of Thermopolis. He is a graduate student at the University of Wyoming, where he is studying business administration and mechanical engineering. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Vinny for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all

of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his journey.●

TRIBUTE TO BROOKE HORNBERGER

• Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Brooke for her hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Brooke is a native of Pinedale. She is a student at Stevenson University, where she is studying biochemistry. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Brooke for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her next journey.●

TRIBUTE TO KARRYN MACDONALD

• Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Karryn for her hard work as an intern in my Cheyenne office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Karryn is a native of Carpenter. She is a student at the University of Wyoming, where she is studying political science. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Karryn for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her next journey.●

TRIBUTE TO MALACHI MILLER

• Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Malachi for his hard work as an intern in the Senate Republican Conference. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Malachi is a native of Casper. He is a student at the University of Wyoming, where he is studying economics. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Malachi for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all

of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his journey.●

TRIBUTE TO MIRANDA OLSON

• Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Miranda for her hard work as an intern in my Casper office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Miranda is a native of Casper. She is a student at Brigham Young University, where she is studying international relations. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Miranda for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her next journey.●

TRIBUTE TO KIARA SIMS

• Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Kiara for her hard work as an intern in my Casper office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Kiara is a native of Casper. She is a student at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, where she is studying accounting and finance. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Kiara for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her next journey.●

TRIBUTE TO PAIGE THOMPSON

• Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Paige for her hard work as an intern in the Environment and Public Works Committee. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Paige is a native of New Mexico. She is a student at New Mexico State University, where she is studying chemical engineering. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Paige for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to