

job the American people elected us to do.

The choice could not be clearer: Republicans on a path forward or Democrats with their ongoing partisan obstruction.

I appreciate your time and your attention in this critical time as we move forward with the bill that the American public is asking us to pass, that we have Republicans supporting, that fills the needs and responds directly to the needs of the American people. At the same time tomorrow, we will see if the Democrats continue to obstruct or work with us on the solution and a path forward for our Nation. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, over the past several weeks, I have had the opportunity to visit with Colorado families and businesses across the four corners of our great State, talking about the challenges that Colorado faces when it comes to our economy as a result of the pandemic, talking about the health challenges that have been created for our State and so many of us around the world when it comes to the pandemic and the work that needs to be done and the work that this Congress needs to do to come together to stop the partisanship, to stop the fighting, to stop the arguing, and actually develop real solutions for the people of this country.

Congress has done that time and time again over the past several months. If you go back to March 6, the passage of the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Act, that was signed into law that day. That is the first action that this Chamber took when it came to coronavirus response. March 18, a couple of weeks later, Congress passed the Families First Coronavirus Response Act. That was signed into law March 18. These were unanimous consent bills—many times unanimous consent, but had the support of every Republican and every Democrat. The work we were doing was so evident, and we needed to do it immediately.

March 27, as economies were shutting down, as restaurants were closing, as hotels were closing, Congress passed the CARES Act—the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act. It was signed into law on March 27. This is when you started to see some of the partisanship that was developing as that bill's passage was delayed in the Senate. Nonetheless, it passed, delivering trillions of dollars in support for the American people, support for unemployment benefits—creating new categories of help for people who had seen their jobs eliminated, furloughed, or hours reduced—support for farmers and ranchers, support for a vaccine, support for education, mass transit, telemedicine, and beyond—trillions of dollars, almost a year's worth of appropriations, a year's worth of funding in

one bill, to help make sure that we were meeting the needs of the American people.

The actions that we take can be focused, at least the way I see it, through three primary lenses: No. 1, what we were doing to make sure we are stopping the spread and flattening the curve of coronavirus; No. 2, making sure that we are helping individuals who are in need, who are worried about how they are going to meet their rent payments, how they are going to make their mortgage, making sure that they are going to be OK.

The third filter, the third lens of actions that we need to take is to go back to our businesses and making sure they are able to keep people employed, making sure they keep their doors open, making sure that our economy can snap back to its full strength and even stronger than ever once the health pandemic is over.

We passed the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act on April 24 to provide additional dollars for the Paycheck Protection Program. We passed legislation that would extend the Paycheck Protection Program into August, which changed the way some of the payments are able to be made within that time and what expenses could be utilized within that timeframe.

We passed the Great American Outdoors Act, which will create thousands of jobs across the State of Colorado—100,000 jobs across this country.

We continue to do more work. There is no alpha and omega legislation when it comes to a coronavirus. There is no one single package of legislation that we can walk away from, spike the football and say: Our job is done here.

We passed one bill, two bills, three bills, four bills—and we will continue to do more because the American people need it, and the American people need that support.

I met with a restaurant owner in Pueblo, CO, who talked about the restrictions they are facing at their restaurant. They can have only 50 people in their restaurant regardless of social distancing. They can have only 50 people in their restaurant. They have a bar in their restaurant, but because they are a restaurant, they can have only 50 people. The bar down the road can have 100 people in it because they are a bar, but the restaurant can have only 50 people because they are a restaurant, even though they have a bar. They are trying to figure out and understand the regulations, the guidance they are under, making sure their customers are safe, making sure their employees can be paid, making sure they survive this and get through this.

This is what the Paycheck Protection Program represents. That is what the help we passed with unemployment benefits means. It is to help people get through this so that we can get back on our feet as a country. I met with farmers in Eastern Colorado who were struggling to find help, who couldn't

find the labor that they needed, who saw challenges to their prices before coronavirus. They saw challenges because of coronavirus to their supply chains and what was happening to the markets. The CARES Act provided aid and relief to many in agriculture across the State of Colorado, but there is more work to be done.

I met with schools across the State of Colorado that are trying to open, that are trying to figure out the best way to keep their students safe and their teachers safe and make sure they can stay open. Some were doing online learning; some were doing in-person learning. All of them were trying to figure it out.

The CARES Act and other pieces of legislation we passed provided billions of dollars for our educational institutions from kindergarten to 12th grade on up through higher education—billions and billions of dollars—but more work needs to be done.

My wife turned to me a couple of weeks ago before our three children started school and said: It is time for spring break to end. Our kids have been out since spring break in March. A week ago, they did start, but there are people and families across the State of Colorado who are unsure about whether their classes will continue in person. Maybe they never got that far.

We have to make sure we are providing help with childcare, making sure families have a place where they can take their kids when they go to work. In a country where more and more families have both parents in the workplace, it is very difficult to continue that job and to do it effectively when you don't have childcare. We have all this supply problem where we don't have enough places for families to take their kids and we have a demand challenge where you have people who need to take their kids to daycare because their schools aren't open. The CARES Act and other legislation we passed addressed that need. There is more work yet to do.

I have heard from my colleagues across the aisle that they support the Paycheck Protection Program and that they support funding for businesses so that they can keep people employed, so that businesses can hire people and get them to return to work because we made a decision that it is better to have people on the job at the workplace than in the unemployment insurance office. We passed the Paycheck Protection Program. Look at these numbers in Colorado. We have a total loan amount of over \$10 billion that went to Colorado alone to help make sure that businesses were staying open, that they could keep people on the payroll, that they could survive the orders to shut down that came from mayors and the States and the President. We did it out of love for our community to make sure that we could stop the spread, flatten the curve, and get through this together. As a result, we have an obligation to make sure that

our economy comes back and that we help those businesses and those individuals through this to make sure our Nation gets back on its feet. The legislation that we passed has done part of that.

If you look back to May 15, you think about an economy that lost 20.5 million jobs. The unemployment rate as of May 15 was 14.7 percent. Today, just a week ago, it is 8.4 percent, with more work that needs to be done.

I have heard from my colleagues on the other side of the aisle that there is a need to support childcare and a need to support education, a need to support our efforts to get a vaccine, a need to support efforts to continue research, a need to support the post office. I have heard from our colleagues on the other side of the aisle that there is a need to make sure we have unemployment benefits that continue for the American people.

I completely agree that we should make sure the Paycheck Protection Program continues. We should make improvements to the Paycheck Protection Program and make sure we improve the Paycheck Protection Program so that it benefits more businesses so that unrepresented communities have better access to the Paycheck Protection Program, that we get more people involved in unbanked and underbanked communities—nontraditional lenders—so we can get the Paycheck Protection Program out to them and save more jobs and get more people to work. I completely agree. Let's work together, and let's pass that.

There are people who aren't as fortunate. There are people who have lost their jobs. There are people who have seen their hours reduced, and they are terrified about how they are going to make ends meet, about what they are going to do for their job and their family. The bills don't stop. They keep coming, and they have to be paid. We should help them. We should pass unemployment insurance benefits. We should pass unemployment benefits to help the American people. Let's vote on that. Let's do that. Let's make it happen.

We should help people who need childcare. Let's make sure we are funding childcare. Let's pass it tomorrow. Let's pass it tomorrow to provide billions of dollars for childcare services. We don't have to wait; we can pass it now.

We should provide additional assistance to our farmers and ranchers. Thank goodness that we have the ability to produce our food in the United States. Imagine what would happen if we were reliant for 70 percent of our food on somebody else, like China. We have seen what happens in this country when we are reliant on China for our medications and for other personal protective equipment. Imagine if we relied on our food coming from somewhere else to the same extent.

We are blessed that we have farmers and ranchers who wake up each and

every day and work hard to put food on our table, but they are struggling right now. Let's help them. We don't have to wait. We don't have to wait another week or another month. We can pass it and vote on it tomorrow—\$20 billion for our farmers and ranchers.

We should continue our work on vaccines. I had the chance to stop at the University of Colorado to visit with Dr. Tom Campbell to learn about the trial that is taking place at the University of Colorado School of Medicine on the Anschutz Campus. They are working with the Moderna vaccine there, making sure that it goes to those who need it to get the best representative sample of how we can get the vaccine to succeed, to work, and get it into our community, but we need more help. We need more work. We need more research and development dollars. Let's vote on \$31 billion on activities like vaccine development and distribution. Let's make that happen now—\$16 billion for testing and related containment efforts.

Let's build up a personal protective equipment stockpile once again. We know we need it. Let's vote on it. Let's vote on that tomorrow—\$16 billion. Let's pass it.

This \$105 billion is more money than the House of Representatives passed. There is \$105 billion for education—for K-12 and for higher education. We have heard the need from our teachers. We have heard the need from our colleges. Let's pass that tomorrow in the bill that we are going to be voting on to provide that help. We don't have to debate; we don't have to delay. We can pass it tomorrow.

The post office—I live in rural Colorado, and my grandfather was a rural letter carrier. I remember as a child traveling with him on county roads out in Yuma County, delivering mail. Let's provide \$10 billion to the Postal Service to make sure they have the resources they need because it matters in rural Colorado. We can pass that tomorrow.

We are going to have a chance to vote on it tomorrow. Let's pass it. Let's make it happen. Let's get it done now.

Everything here that we are voting on tomorrow—\$105 billion to support students' safe return to in-person learning and educational opportunities, that is in the bill we are going to be voting on tomorrow. That \$105 billion is more than the House of Representatives asked for.

There is \$16 billion for testing and related containment efforts in the bill. Let's vote on that tomorrow.

There is \$31 billion in vaccine and development distribution, \$20 billion in farm assistance, \$15 billion to support childcare services, changes to the Paycheck Protection Program that will allow for a second loan.

I met with restaurateurs in Denver and across Colorado who said that the Paycheck Protection Program is what kept them in business. I met with

Mother Pearl in Colorado Springs—a Cajun restaurant—where they said: This saved us.

But they are still struggling. They are not up to full capacity yet. Let's give them a chance to get a second loan through the Paycheck Protection Program so that they can bring their employees back, keep their employees employed and paid, and get their doors open and through this.

Let's simplify the loan forgiveness application process so that people who have \$150,000 or less have certainty and clarity about what is going to happen to that loan. If you look at Colorado, the vast majority of the loans that represent \$10.5 billion in Paycheck Protection Program loans—95,000 loans were below \$150,000 in Colorado; 95,000 businesses could have certainty that their loan is forgiven. Let's pass that. Let's pass that tomorrow. That is in the bill.

There are enhanced unemployment benefits of \$300 a week. The State could contribute up to \$400 a week, lasting through December at the end of this year. We can pass that tomorrow. It is in the bill.

Ten billion dollars in assistance to the post office is in the bill.

Every single point that we have made here is supported by my colleagues. They want money for education. We are giving more money to education than the House of Representatives passed. They want dollars for testing. They want dollars for vaccine and distribution. They want dollars and help and support for farm assistance. They want dollars for childcare. They want dollars for the Paycheck Protection Program. They want to keep businesses open and people employed and people hired. They want to help people and businesses have more certainty in how their loans are going to be handled. They want additional unemployment benefits for the American people, and they want help for the post office.

There is not a single person who has come to the floor and said: I oppose money for higher education. They haven't done that because they agree. They agree with us. They agree with the testing and the research for the vaccine. They agree with support for childcare. They agree that we need to do it.

Maybe somebody wants more. We passed one, two, three, four, five, six—this could be the fifth, sixth, or seventh bill, depending on how you count the various pieces of legislation that have gone toward coronavirus relief. We will do more, and we should do more.

But why on Earth would you vote no tomorrow and tell the people of this country to go pound sand because you didn't get everything you wanted? Why would you tell the people who are on unemployment benefits and need it now: I am sorry, but I didn't get a tax deduction for wealthy people in California or New York so you are not getting yours. Why would you tell the people who need the dollars in education

to support our kids and our teachers: I am sorry, but you are not getting yours because somebody has a nice house in Los Angeles who needs a tax cut. Why would you tell businesses that they may not be able to keep their doors open because that house in Manhattan is really nice and you want to make sure they keep their big house tax deduction?

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle would have you believe that the American people can wait for unemployment benefits, that they can wait for more help for businesses. They would have you believe that they don't need to vote yes on this, even though they agree with it. The American people expect us to do our jobs. The American people have the chance to see this Congress work not in a bipartisan fashion tomorrow but in a nonpartisan fashion—getting back to the very beginning of the work we did together to pass legislation to benefit and help the American people, who acted out of love to stop their economies because they wanted to stop the spread of the coronavirus. They shut their businesses and their hotels emptied out all because they were complying with efforts to socially distance in order to end this pandemic.

We have a chance tomorrow to vote on a bill that will provide unemployment benefits that will help people in ranch communities—that will provide them with billions of dollars in aid—but they are saying no because they didn't get everything. Their theory seems to be, if I can't get everything I want, you don't get anything, period.

Is that the message the American people are going to get tomorrow, that it is their way or the highway? You are not going to get the help that everybody agrees on because I just didn't get everything that I thought I should.

Look, our family business is a farm equipment dealership, and I have talked about it many times on this floor. I have never seen somebody come into that dealership and say, "My tractor is broken. I would like a Republican to fix it," or "My planter needs to be repaired. Can you please find a Democrat to fix it?" That is not the way people come into the store in our economy and do business.

They don't go into Target or Walmart that way. They don't go to that restaurant in Pueblo, in Colorado Springs, or in Denver and ask, "Could you serve me the Republican meal today, please, made by a Democrat cook?" They expect us to get the job done.

There are some in this Chamber who argue that, if we just delay a little bit longer, we will put a big, big package together. Vote tomorrow. Bring amendments. Have the debate. Don't hide behind closed doors and argue that, if we just hold out a little bit longer, maybe my tax cuts will come for that mansion in Beverly Hills or for that place in the Hamptons.

That is what they are doing. That is what they are doing to the American

people. They are saying, even though we agree, because we didn't get our way, no one gets their help, that no one gets the help they need because they didn't get their way on everything.

Tomorrow's vote isn't a final vote by any means, and even if it were, there is more work to be done. We will have additional pieces of legislation that we will continue to provide relief for, but tomorrow is the beginning of the debate. It is the first step in making sure that we have that for the American people; yet they are going to say no. They are going to vote no. They are afraid to debate. They won't even bring amendments.

The Paycheck Protection Program has saved millions of jobs around the country. We have a chance to extend it, to make it work for more people. Unemployment insurance has expired. Look, we worked over August to make sure we had an extension of unemployment insurance and unemployment benefits for the people of Colorado and this country, as well as payroll tax breaks and help with rent. This was over the last several weeks. We need to act to extend it, and we have a chance to vote on it tomorrow.

Vote yes, and we can provide that relief. Vote no, and you are telling the American people that politics is more important than policy, and that is wrong. If this body is interested in results and policy, they will vote yes to provide this relief that everybody agrees on.

Some people find the politics of pandering and partisanship way too intriguing, inviting, and alluring. The American people find it sickening. Vote yes. Get on this bill. Bring your amendments. Have the debate. Let the American people know that relief is on the way—or vote no and continue this shameless charade of people who posture about helping the American people but who are simply interested in the electoral outcome.

This vote is going to tell us a lot about people tomorrow. This vote is going to tell us about people who are interested in finding that way to relief for the American people—the opportunity is here—or is it going to simply be a chance to provide yet one more grandstand, yet one more finger-wagging, tongue-wagging opportunity for the American people to see how embarrassing the debate has become?

The people of Colorado are strong, resilient, and optimistic. They see optimism in every vale and valley as they work to climb that next peak, but they need partners to help them, and we have a chance tomorrow to vote to provide that help.

Do not be fooled by arguments that this doesn't do enough. We can do more, and we will do more, but let's start with the unemployment benefits now. Let's start with the business help now to keep people employed. Let's start with the vaccines and the research now. Let's start with the help for education now without delay.

Tomorrow, I hope the outcome is a surprise, and I hope that we will see people come together in a way that we saw at the beginning of this debate. There is always more to be done.

I ask unanimous consent to have a letter printed in the RECORD following my remarks that I wrote on April 16, with my colleague Senator BENNET and Governor Polis, that asks for more to be done.

In this letter, we talk about the need for State and local funding—a half a billion dollars for State and local funding. We also talk about other programs, including additional benefits for food nutrition. I still support that. I am still fighting for that. I still want to do those things we listed in this letter, but I am not going to let that stop me from voting yes tomorrow because the American people need it.

I hope that my colleagues will stop the partisanship, stop the gamesmanship, stop the power hungry approach to politics. Put it aside for the American people. Do what is right for the American people. Vote yes. I am delivering this critically important relief to our country so that we can stand united, as our country has stood united for months, and get through this together.

In the weeks before the economy shut down and we could no longer go to church in person, we were reviewing a passage in the Bible which read that out of our struggles and tribulations comes perseverance, that out of that perseverance is built character, and that out of that character comes hope. We can provide that hope tomorrow. The American people deserve nothing less.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

April 16, 2020.

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.
Hon. CHARLES SCHUMER,
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR LEADER MCCONNELL and LEADER SCHUMER: As you work to extend and build upon the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, we write to request certain modifications and improvements to the programs that were included in the law. We kept these requests focused on the areas under negotiation as we understand them including small business reforms, state and local funding, health care, and food assistance through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

Since the CARES Act became law, we have spoken with Coloradans across the state about the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), including small business owners, farmers, and non-profit directors. It is clear that we should provide additional funding for the PPP, but we should also modify the program to ensure it is providing support for as many small businesses and non-profits as the program was originally intended.

Through our conversations, we believe the following modifications and additions to the PPP can help fix the very real-on-the-ground issues preventing many small businesses from participating in the program:

Increase the program appropriations and the loan amount to 4 times average monthly payroll (permitting those that already have

loans to increase their loan amount to reach that level) for firms that have suffered significant revenue losses as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency;

Increase the amount that can be spent on non-payroll expenses for firms that have suffered significant revenue losses as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency;

Expand eligibility as follows:

Expressly provide that health care entities, such as quasi-governmental Critical Access Hospitals and other rural health care providers, are eligible to participate in the program;

Include certain nonprofits who should not have been excluded in the first place, subject to the applicable affiliation rules;

Expand the exception to the 500-employee limitation for franchises, which is contained in the Small Business Administration (SBA) guidance, to include franchised businesses beyond those listed in the SBA's franchise listing; and

Expand the affiliation rule exception to include more firms that, for all intents and purposes have fewer than 500 employees, such as fitness centers and retail trade establishments.

Expressly provide that, following the recently-issued SBA guidance regarding distributions from partnerships and LLCs (up to \$100,000 annualized), existing PPP loans that excluded such payments may increase their loan amounts accordingly;

Add the following to list of qualified expenses: mortgage principal payments in accordance with previously-established amortization schedules (no pre-payments), inventory expenses in advance of re-opening businesses, and past-due inventory invoices;

Expressly provide that businesses can participate in both the PPP and EIDL loans, provided that funds are not spent on the same expenses;

Set aside PPP funding to support our smallest businesses; as well as minority-, veteran-, women-owned, and other underserved businesses that may not have an existing business banking relationship;

Expressly provide that Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) are authorized lenders under the program;

Authorize the Treasury Department, the Federal Reserve, and/or the SBA to purchase program loans for borrowers with 50 or more employees from the originating banks two weeks after origination; and authorize the appropriate entity purchase program loans for businesses with less than 50 employees immediately after origination; and

Ensure that small agricultural producers who employ individuals under the H-2A program can have their payroll expenses count for loan forgiveness purposes.

In addition to the PPP modifications, the Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) Program that was included in the CARES Act has been oversubscribed. The intended goal was to have these loans paired with the PPP in order to provide businesses a greater amount of liquidity. It has been clear in our communications across the state that the program is oversubscribed and EIDL needs significantly more funding and improved efficiency to get the funding more quickly into the economy. The CARES Act required EIDL advances of up to \$10,000 per loan to be delivered immediately, but the oversubscription has caused the SBA to limit the amount of those advances and they have been slow in arriving. EIDL borrowers simply cannot wait for weeks for approval on minimal advances. We must make sure the program is fully funded so it can be useful for businesses.

We must also work to provide health care providers, both those on the frontlines and those struggling with lost revenue, the support they need. We request additional fund-

ing through the Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund (PHSSEF) to support hospitals and health care providers in the next phase of legislation. We must also ensure that there is a transparent and evidence-based process in place to provide relief to rural hospitals and health clinics, Medicaid providers, including home and community-based services providers, children's hospitals, nursing homes, providers treating undocumented patients, and safety net hospitals and clinics who provide critical, life-saving care to underserved populations and were not addressed in the Department of Health and Human Service's initial \$30 billion tranche of funding from the CARES Act.

Further, state and local governments and tribes are on the front lines of responding to the crisis. The CARES Act included \$150 billion for these entities from the Coronavirus Relief Fund and tens of billions of additional support for education and housing needs. In addition to direct federal support for education, housing, and public health needs, it is critical that Congress provide an additional \$500 billion in flexible fiscal relief to states and hundreds of billions of additional support directly to local governments without population thresholds and with the flexibility to fill major revenue shortfalls. We request robust funding to ensure further flexible relief in the next legislative response. In fact, any interim agreement between the leaders must include this critical state and local funding.

Lastly, we are deeply disturbed by the severe deprivation so many families are experiencing, manifested in scenes of hours-long lines at food banks across the country. To alleviate some of the pressure on the hardest-hit families, we support increasing overall SNAP benefits by 15% and continuing that increase until the public health crisis has ended and the economy has returned to pre-crisis conditions, along with other reforms to SNAP to cut red tape and expand access to nutritional assistance.

Colorado is representative of America. We have remote rural communities and large urban areas. We depend on the agriculture industry, but we also have some of the most cutting-edge technology companies in the world. We are known for our restaurants, hotels, and outdoor recreation. Those industries are supported by countless plumbers, electricians, and contractors. And like America, we have our differences, but above all, Coloradans are pragmatic—we do what works. The ideas laid out in this letter reflect what Coloradans have told us is needed to make these programs work. We should waste no time in adopting them.

We thank you for your work on behalf of the American public. We believe that we share the common goals of keeping thousands of small businesses across Colorado and the nation with the ability to retain as many workers as they can, our hospitals and health care providers equipped with what they need, and state and local governments and tribes with the ability to respond during this pandemic. Should you require additional information on these suggestions, our staffs are able to further discuss. As you negotiate the next federal response, we respectfully request you include these modifications to the CARES Act and additional requests in mind.

Sincerely,

CORY GARDNER,
United States Senator.
MICHAEL F. BENNET,
United States Senator.
JARED POLIS,
Governor of Colorado.

Mr. GARDNER. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that, notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII, the Senate vote on confirmation of the Jarbou, Cullen, and Gujarati nominations, in that order, at 11:30 a.m. tomorrow and that the cloture motion with respect to the motion to concur with amendment No. 2652 to the House amendment to S. 178 ripen following the disposition of the Gujarati nomination.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. 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.

REMEMBERING KATHY BROWN

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I rise today to remember one of Wyoming's most accomplished and beloved journalists. On Wednesday, August 12, 2020, Kathleen "Kathy" Suzanne Brown passed away at the age of 64. In her nearly 40 years as a reporter at the Gillette News Record, Kathy had a profound impact on communities across northeast Wyoming.

Kathy spent more than 20 years of her time at the News Record as a sports reporter. She was notably the only female sports reporter in the State for most of that time. Kathy was known for being an extremely thorough reporter. She went above and beyond to profile a majority of Campbell County's student athletes, whether or not they were the star player.

When Kathy transitioned to being an education reporter in 2012, I often had the privilege of speaking with her on my regular visits to classrooms around Gillette. Kathy was a true professional, and it was abundantly clear how much she cared for the students she wrote about.

Her dedication to journalistic excellence was recognized statewide on multiple occasions. One of the biggest highlights of her career came in 2016, when the Wyoming Press Association named her its Veteran Journalist of the Year. Kathy was also recognized by the Campbell County School District, the Energy Classic Committee, the Wyoming Education Association, and the Wyoming Historical Society for her excellent work.

While her passing leaves a huge void in the Wyoming journalism community, her legacy lives on through her more than four decades long record of compelling and insightful stories.

Bobbi and I send our deepest condolences to Kathy's mother, Shirley