

and barely survived his time in a Confederate prisoner of war camp in Mississippi.

Earl Armstead, Peter's grandson, served in France during World War I, where he was put in charge of destroying enemy bridges. He came home suffering from post-traumatic stress and, like so many of our veterans, struggled to talk about what he had seen.

And Robert Armstead, Earl's nephew, also fought in Europe during World War II. He served in the Tank Destroyer Battalion and took part in the Po Valley campaign in Italy. His unit was being readied for the Pacific Campaign when the war ended.

All three of these veterans were willing to sacrifice everything in defense of our Nation. This past August, a grateful nation honored them with side-by-side burials at Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly.

Dr. Robert Armstead II, Robert's son, worked to make this historic interment happen. He believes veterans deserve to be remembered and honored for their service. I couldn't agree more.

My own father, who served during World War II, always told me that veterans should not stand at the back of any line. Our Nation must keep its promises to our heroes who have served, whether it is healthcare, education, a chance at a good job, the military recognitions they earned in service, or a place of honor in our national cemeteries, places that Robert Armstead II calls "sacred holy ground."

On this Veterans Day and every day, I salute all of Michigan's veterans past and present. I salute their families, who sacrifice alongside them and help ensure that their stories are never forgotten.

Thank you.

TRIBUTE TO MEL THOMPSON, GILDA LINTZ, KAY SHARP, AND CHAD TENPENNY

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President; I was first elected to the House of Representatives in 1980 and then the Senate in 1996. I have enjoyed the privilege of becoming the longest serving member of Congress in the history of the Sunflower State and representing Kansans in Washington, DC, for 40 years.

It has been an amazing ride, a great partnership in government and many people have been a tremendous help to Franki and me. We want to say a heartfelt thank you to all the friends we have made along the way.

My first boss in public service was a true gentleman from Concordia named Frank Carlson. Senator Carlson was the first person to hit the political trifecta and serve our State as Senator, Congressman, and Governor. The always modest Senator Carlson routinely said, "There are no self-made men or women in public service; it is your friends, family and staff who make you what you are."

Through the years I have repeated Senator Carlson's words on many occa-

sions, and I truly believe that Members of Congress are only as good as their staff. Well, I have been blessed because, for four decades, I believe that I have had the best staff both in Kansas and on Capitol Hill.

While I could offer a long list of current and former aides who have truly made a difference for Kansas and America, there are three unique, humble, and accomplished individuals who deserve special recognition. Mel Thompson, Gilda Lintz, and Kay Sharp have all served quietly and effectively behind the scenes on my Kansas staff for nearly a quarter century.

First, there is Mel Thompson who serves as my State agriculture representative. Actually, Mel and I first worked together on the Washington staff of First District Congressman Keith Sebelius in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Mel has taught me a lot about agriculture and even more about people. Nobody is better at listening to frustrated farmers and ranchers and few know more about the complex and often burdensome regulations offered by USDA and EPA. This incredible knowledge and Mel's neighborly presence led to well-deserved recognition by the Kansas Farm Bureau who honored Mel with a Distinguished Service to Agriculture award. Mel has been a strong advocate for me and, in fact, a brother.

Next, there is Gilda Lintz who serves as the district director in my Topeka office. Gilda is what we call a casework specialist, serving as the court of last resort when communication has broken down between a Kansan and a government agency. Gilda has invested her heart and soul into assisting veterans to obtain service awards or unrealized benefits. Additionally, Gilda has led my service academy nomination board that meets each October to identify the best and brightest Kansans capable of graduating from our Nation's military academies and defending our Nation. I call her "golden." Thank you, Gilda, for nurturing America's heroes. You are a true "Kansas treasure."

I also want to recognize Kay Sharp who serves as my State casework and outreach director. Kay joined my staff after a stint with Senator Nancy Kassebaum and has been a steady and dependable rock in the Overland Park office since 1997. Like Mel and Gilda, Kay is the foundation of Team Roberts. Kay leads my state casework effort and has helped countless Kansans obtain last minute passports, crucial IRS refund checks, and meaningful social security disability payments. More recently, like she did after 9-11, Kay worked after hours and late into the morning on weekends to ensure Americans were able to re-enter the country during COVID-related travel interruptions. Most of all, Kay is someone who I could count on for frank advice and counsel. She always gives you the unvarnished truth, and for that, I am grateful.

Finally, I want to say a word about my longtime State director and now

chief of staff, Chad Tenpenny. Chad has been out there riding shotgun, covering all 105 counties, with me since my early days in the Senate. We have covered almost every inch of the State, from the Cimarron National Grasslands in Morton County to the eastern border in Wyandotte County. The people of Kansas know and respect Chad and depend on him as a direct link to the Federal Government. His steady dependable leadership in the State has been a gift to me and to all Kansans over the years.

As a proud U.S. Marine, where I learned that I could achieve more than I ever thought I really could, I am constantly urging my staff to "sprint to the finish line" and "take the Hill." Mel, Gilda, and Kay have done a lot of sprinting and climbing through the years. Together, we have made Kansas a better place, and for that, I am proud.

Semper Fi.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

SESQUICENTENNIAL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON

• Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate the University of Akron's sesquicentennial and congratulate them on 150 years of extraordinary research, education, and contributions to northeast Ohio.

In 1870, Buchtel College was founded in Akron, OH. It was the predecessor to today's University of Akron. The opening enrollment at Buchtel College was 46 collegiate students with an additional 171 students in the preparatory program. Today, the University of Akron has an enrollment of more than 19,000 students between the main campus in Akron and four regional locations, and the school has more than 175,000 alumni living in 138 countries around the globe.

The University of Akron is home to a beautiful 218-acre campus and top programs in psychology, business administration and accounting, secondary education, the world's largest polymer academic program, and more. UA has a \$2.7 billion economic impact in its primary service area, which includes the Ohio counties of Summit, Cuyahoga, Stark, Medina, Portage, and Wayne.

On October 10, 2020, UA will be celebrating its sesquicentennial anniversary with 150 independent celebrations around the world, concluding with a live message and toast from current University of Akron President, Gary Miller. The evening will honor UA's past 150 years of education and research and recognize the impactful, imaginative, and innovative work faculty, researchers, and staff at UA have done over the years and continue to do today.

UA is a prominent institution of higher education with a long history of playing an active role in serving the community in Akron and beyond. Congratulations to the University of

Akron for 150 years of excellence, and I wish them the best of luck as they keep the lamp of learning burning for many years to come.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 4:32 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 2330. An act to amend the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act to provide for congressional oversight of the board of directors of the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee and to protect amateur athletes from emotional, physical, and sexual abuse, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, without amendment:

S. Con. Res. 46. Concurrent resolution to correct the enrollment of S. 2330.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-5609. A communication from the Program Specialist, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standardized Approach for Calculating the Exposure Amount of Derivative Contracts; Correction" (RIN1557-AE93) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 1, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5610. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "VA Acquisition Regulation: Contractor Qualifications; Acquisition of Utility Services; and Contract Administration and Audit Services" (RIN2900-AQ38) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 1, 2020; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-5611. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Elimination of On-the-Job Training and Apprenticeship Trainee Certification" (RIN2900-AQ61) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 1, 2020; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. BRAUN:

S. 4796. A bill to address the high costs of health care services, prescription drugs, and health insurance coverage in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 4797. A bill to place restrictions on the issuance of nonimmigrant visas to Chinese journalists employed by a Chinese state-run

media organization or effectively controlled by the Government of the People's Republic of China or the Chinese Communist Party, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CRUZ:

S. 4798. A bill to use grant funds to provide identification kits to certain children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CRUZ:

S. 4799. A bill to require the imposition of sanctions with respect to forced abortions by the Government of the People's Republic of China; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. CORNYN, and Ms. HASSAN):

S. Res. 746. A resolution designating the week of October 4 through October 10, 2020, as "National Community Policing Week"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KAINE (for Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR)):

S. Con. Res. 49. A concurrent resolution mandating procedures to ensure adequate precautions against COVID-19 in Senate buildings; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 633

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mrs. LOEFFLER) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 633, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the members of the Women's Army Corps who were assigned to the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, known as the "Six Triple Eight".

S. 861

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 861, a bill to establish in the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor of the Department of State a Special Envoy for the Human Rights of LGBTI Peoples, and for other purposes.

S. 3004

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 3004, a bill to protect human rights and enhance opportunities for LGBTI people around the world, and for other purposes.

S. 3353

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3353, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for extended months of Medicare coverage of immunosuppressive drugs for kidney transplant patients, and for other purposes.

S. 3424

At the request of Ms. SMITH, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 3424, a bill to end preventable maternal mortality and severe maternal mor-

bidity in the United States and close disparities in maternal health outcomes, and for other purposes.

S. 3753

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3753, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to ensure that certain medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs have physical locations for the disposal of controlled substances medications.

S. 4694

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) were added as cosponsors of S. 4694, a bill to extend and expand limitations on the importation of uranium from the Russian Federation, and for other purposes.

S. 4715

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4715, a bill to grant Federal charter to the National American Indian Veterans, Incorporated.

S. 4757

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4757, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to establish additional requirements for dealers, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 689

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 689, a resolution condemning the crackdown on peaceful protestors in Belarus and calling for the imposition of sanctions on responsible officials.

S. RES. 709

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS), the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 709, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the August 13, 2020, and September 11, 2020, announcements of the establishment of full diplomatic relations between the State of Israel and the United Arab Emirates and the State of Israel and the Kingdom of Bahrain are historic achievements.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 746—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 4 THROUGH OCTOBER 10, 2020, AS "NATIONAL COMMUNITY POLICING WEEK"

Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. CORNYN, and Ms. HASSAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary: