

TRIBUTE TO DR. KRISTAPS KEGGI

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I rise today to honor Dr. Kristaps Keggi. Dr. Keggi is the epitome of the American dream. He was born in Riga, Latvia, and survived World War II as a child. He escaped communism on a refugee ship to immigrate to the United States. When he landed on the docks of Manhattan, he would go on to finish high school and attend college and medical school. He graduated from Yale University in 1955 and from Yale University School of Medicine in 1959.

Eight years after he arrived in the U.S., he raised his right hand and volunteered to serve in the U.S. Army. He joined the U.S. Army Medical Service and Medical Corps. Dr. Keggi served as the orthopedic surgery chief in the Third Mobile Army Surgical Hospital—MASH—in Vietnam from September 1965 to June 1966. This was the first MASH unit stood up and the first to deploy to Vietnam. The 3rd MASH supported the 173rd Airborne Brigade, the 1st and 25th Infantry Divisions, and countless other units. He left the Army with the rank of captain. He is a life member of the Veterans of Foreign of Wars.

Dr. Keggi's service did not stop after Vietnam. His battlefield experience sharpened his skills. He would go on to train generations of orthopedic surgeons and win worldwide acclaim for orthopedic education and innovation. I credit much of my success as an orthopedic surgeon and in life to training under Dr. Keggi.

Dr. Keggi is the founder and the president of the Keggi Orthopedic Foundation and Orthopedic Exchange Program between the United States and the former Soviet Republics. This program has fostered hundreds of fellows in exchanges in Latvia and Russia. He even mentored the former President of Latvia who was a fellow orthopedic surgeon.

He holds memberships in many scholarly societies such as American Orthopedic Association, American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons, American Association of Hip and Knee Surgeons, Society for Arthritic Joint Surgery, and Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences, just to highlight a few.

He has published over 135 scholarly articles on orthopedic medical treatments. He was the senior author of the seminal American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons Instructional Course on "Early Care of Severe War Wounds" on how battlefield wounds should be treated. He pioneered and popularized the less invasive anterior surgical approach used for total hip replacement. Dr. Keggi has been recognized by Best Doctors in America starting in 1996. He was named in America's Top Surgeons in 2009 through 2017.

Dr. Keggi has volunteered for many charitable endeavors and has been recognized globally for his contributions to medical science and humanity. He was honored by his hometown of Waterbury, CT, and the Waterbury Vet-

erans Memorial Committee for his lifetime of service working with and treating patients with the wounds of war. In 2020, Dr. Keggi was inducted into the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame.

Dr. Keggi's service embodies everything our country stands for. Every opportunity he has been given in the U.S., he has given back in full. My wife Bobbi and I thank him today for his life of service to our military, our veterans, and our Nation.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

COMMEMORATING THE GRAND OL' OPRY'S 5000TH SATURDAY NIGHT BROADCAST

• Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, I think I speak for all Tennesseans when I confess that, during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns, I craved the comfort of familiarity. I laid newer books and albums aside in favor of well-worn classics so close to my heart that they, in and of themselves, were cherished memories. We lost so much during that lonely time, but through it all, at least one thing remained constant.

Every Saturday night, when I tuned my radio to 650 AM WSM, I heard the fiddles and steel guitars that have welcomed music lovers into the Grand Ol' Opry's circle of friends for the past 95 years.

On October 30, 2021, the Grand Ol' Opry will celebrate its historic 5000th Saturday night broadcast. As most country music lovers will tell you, Saturday at the Opry is more than just an "experience;" it is the foundation of the format's legacy and the endgame for those who come to Nashville, TN, seeking their place within the ranks of country music's legends. The Saturday broadcast has been on the airwaves longer than any other broadcast program of any medium anywhere in the world. It thrived through its expansion from radio to television and then to digital streaming platforms. It has survived the Great Depression, World War II, multiple global conflicts, civil unrest, devastating natural disasters, and, now, a once-in-a-lifetime global pandemic.

For 7 months during the spring, summer, and fall of 2020, while life outside the Grand Ol' Opry House ground to a halt, a dedicated skeleton crew of producers, stagehands, and performers came together to create a socially distanced broadcast that was just as welcoming and heartfelt as anything a live audience would expect to see. Today, thankfully, the fans are back in their seats, and those who don't make the pilgrimage to Music City tune in from home with a newfound appreciation for the gift of live music.

It is my privilege to memorialize the Opry's ongoing commitment to artistry and entertainment and to honor every single person who worked so hard, against such odds, to bring coun-

try music into our homes when we could not seek it out for ourselves. On behalf of the entire Tennessee congressional delegation, I thank you for helping us maintain our bond with the past, our hope for the future, and our belief in the power of music to comfort and inspire when all else seems lost.●

RECOGNIZING DAYSPRING

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam President, I rise today to offer my sincere congratulations to DaySpring on 50 years of sharing God's love through creativity and expression.

DaySpring, a Christian cards and e-cards, boxed cards, inspirational gifts, home decor, and art company, calls Siloam Springs, AR, home to its world headquarters. We are tremendously proud to host this faith-based industry in the Natural State and benefit from all the stirring and encouraging work it does.

The commitment and continued dedication DaySpring and its employees display in sharing their Christian faith through uplifting, inspirational, and prayerful formats is a testament to the role faith plays in their mission. In a time where deep divisions exist within our country, its hopeful messages are a powerful and effective reminder to choose kindness. The work it does brings Americans together and prompts us to recall that we are all created in God's image and loved by our Creator. I am so appreciative for its passion to spread God's love as well as the beauty and sincerity that characterizes the products it so thoughtfully creates to deliver that message.

We are very pleased to have witnessed what DaySpring has accomplished over the last five decades. Because of its hard, intentional work to reach people with God's word, I am certain more people are leading a life devoted to Christ. With a vision to "see every person experience and express the life-changing message of God's love," the company has charted a path that has kept it focused, relevant, and undeniably impactful.

As Colossians 3:23 says, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord." DaySpring's staff has certainly followed that admonition each and every day for 50 years. In the years ahead, I encourage them to continue inspiring us to look to our Heavenly Father, and to love and help one another along the way.

Americans, now more than ever, are in need of this hopeful and sincere message. I am confident the guidance and direction consistently provided by DaySpring will be instrumental as we continue teaching and sharing God's word in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO JON AND CAROL MIELKE

• Mr. CRAMER. Madam President, every October, the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute—CCAI—

sponsors its annual Angels in Adoption recognition gala. This event honors individuals across the Nation who are making a difference in the lives of young people in need of foster and forever homes.

As adoptive parents ourselves, the dedication and commitment to adoption and foster care by CCAI and every Angels in Adoption honoree this year are extremely near and dear to the hearts of my wife Kris and me.

I want to recognize the Angels in Adoption couple I nominated and who are being honored this year. I have known Jon and Carol Mielke of Bismarck, ND, for many years. Yet I am not sure our home community has any idea of all they have done to foster such vulnerable young children for nearly 20 years.

Jon and Carol became foster parents in early 2003, when their daughter was in college and their son a senior in high school. They made the decision to foster infants, they said, because they had “room in their home and room in their hearts.”

To date, they have taken into their home some 45 infants. Some were with them for only a couple of days. Others stayed nearly 3 years.

Always keeping in mind the main goal of foster care is family reunification, they have made an effort to remain in contact with the biological families of these children. Their first foster child was a newborn who had been abandoned at the bus station. They cared for her for 2-and-a-half months. This girl, who recently graduated from high school, is one of the children with whom Jon and Carol have stayed in touch. Another set of twins, now teenagers, visited them for a week earlier this year.

Jon was a longtime administrative manager for a State agency, and Carol’s profession was accounting. He has since retired, and she later became a licensed practical nurse, keeping flexible work hours to be available for the children when they come into their home.

Because of Jon’s background in legislation and lobbying, he has provided testimony on foster care issues before the legislature. This has helped bring positive statutory changes to some State laws.

Jon and Carol have been active in the regional foster care association, with Jon serving as president one year. They also mentor new foster parents and have appeared in media campaigns promoting foster care. In 2006, they were named North Dakota’s Foster Parents of the Year.

The lifelong impact of the love and care they have given to each and every baby coming into their home will never be accurately measured. And, after nearly two decades, they continue to remain dedicated to foster care because of their unwavering belief they can make a difference in the life of a child.

I join all North Dakotans and the entire Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute in congratulating and

honoring Jon and Carol Mielke. We thank you for your years of dedication and the work you continue to do fostering infants in your home. You are exceptionally deserving of recognition as Angels in Adoption. ●

TRIBUTE TO JUSTIN MITCHELL

● Mr. PAUL. Madam President, we are all indebted to the special teachers we encountered during our formal education: those who made a subject come alive for us—perhaps for the very first time—and sparked a lifelong interest in a subject or in a field of study. Today, I want to recognize a Kentucky teacher who is doing just that: bringing history and civics education to life for students at Franklin-Simpson Middle School in Franklin, KY.

How many students are truly interested in history and civics in the seventh or eighth grade? But motivating his students to move beyond memorizing facts and dates is exactly what Justin Mitchell is known for. Ask his colleagues—or visit his social media sites—and you will find that he is wildly creative in his mission to make social studies education interesting, challenging, and relevant.

Justin Mitchell earned degrees in social studies and history at Western Kentucky University—in my hometown of Bowling Green—and is now a doctoral candidate there. He is a McConnell scholar who regularly participates in the McConnell Center’s Civics Education Program, and he deploys his leadership skills outside of the classroom by mentoring students at his church.

While his fellow teachers, students, and their families have known for years that Justin is an exceptional teacher, this year, he was recognized by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History as Kentucky’s History Teacher of the Year. I am pleased to congratulate Justin on this accomplishment, to thank him for the impact that he is making on his students, and to create this permanent tribute to him in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of the U.S. Senate. ●

REMEMBERING WILLIAM “BUD” LACOUNTE

● Mr. TESTER. Madam President, I rise today to honor the life of William “Bud” LaCounte, a distinguished Montanan and decorated veteran of World War II.

While Bud is no longer with us, his legacy lives on. On behalf of myself, my fellow Montanans, and all Americans, I would like to extend our deepest gratitude for his service to this Nation.

Bud’s story is one of incredible courage and sacrifice, having survived both American Indian Boarding School and D-day. Born in Bainville, MT, where he now rests, he was a proud member of the Turtle Mountain Tribe of Chippewa Indians. At the age of just 6, he endured the unimaginable when was

taken away from his parents and sent to Fort Totten Indian School.

But his commitment to answering the call of duty never faded. And on the eve of the Second World War, Bud enlisted in the U.S. Army. Not long after he joined, Bud deployed to France and fought bravely in the battle of Omaha Beach in Normandy on June 6, 1944.

After the war, he returned to Montana and settled into his life in Billings as a loving husband, dedicated father and grandfather, rancher, dancer, and storyteller. While he has since passed, his memory and spirit lives on in each of us—in his stories, in his children and grandchildren, and in his enduring service and sacrifice to this Nation.

I now have the profound honor of presenting Bud’s family with the French Legion of Honor Medal for his bravery in the line of duty. This medal serves as a small token of our country’s appreciation for Bud’s incredible service and outstanding character.

Let us pay a final salute to Bud, who represents the very best of this great country. ●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:23 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2265. An act to amend the Investment Company Act of 1940 to postpone the date of payment or satisfaction upon redemption of certain securities in the case of the financial exploitation of specified adults, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2989. An act to amend securities and banking laws to make the information reported to financial regulatory agencies electronically searchable, to further enable the development of RegTech and Artificial Intelligence applications, to put the United States on a path towards building a comprehensive Standard Business Reporting program to ultimately harmonize and reduce the private sector’s regulatory compliance burden, while enhancing transparency and accountability, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4111. An act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to direct the United States Executive Director at the International Monetary Fund to advocate that the Fund provide technical assistance to Fund members seeking to enhance their capacity to evaluate the legal and financial terms of sovereign debt contracts, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5142. An act to award posthumously a Congressional Gold Medal, in commemoration of the servicemembers who perished in Afghanistan on August 26, 2021, during the evacuation of citizens of the United States and Afghan allies at Hamid Karzai International Airport, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 2265. An act to amend the Investment Company Act of 1940 to postpone the date of payment or satisfaction upon redemption of certain securities in the case of the financial