

He and his wife Bea attended Drake University Law School together. When they graduated, she was offered less than him for the same job with the same firm despite her having had better grades, so he turned down the job and opened a practice with her.

He soon entered public service locally, serving as assistant Polk County attorney and as chairman of the Polk County Welfare Board.

In 1958, Neal Smith was elected to the House of Representatives, where he served for 36 years, longer than any other Iowan has served in the U.S. House.

Even though he represented Iowa's largest metropolitan area, he came from a farm background like me and continued to farm near Altoona during his time in office.

I remember him as a strong defender of agriculture.

I value the friendship I had with Neal Smith starting as a freshmen Congressman and continuing through his time after leaving Congress.

Again, I pay tribute to this humble public servant. Barbara and I will continue to remember his family in our prayers.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING DOROTHY JACKSON

● Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring an Ohio trailblazer who we lost last month, the first woman to serve as deputy mayor for the city of Akron, Dorothy Ola Jackson.

Former Akron mayor Tom Sayer, who nominated her to become deputy mayor, called her an "urbanist saint." And she was. Born in Akron, OH, in 1933, Dorothy Ola Jackson's life of service was molded by the loss of her brother and parents before the age of 24. She became a fierce advocate for families and for her community.

For 12 years, she worked at Goodwill, starting as a secretary and rising to serve as assistant public relations director. She helped organize special projects and volunteer efforts. Knowing American Sign Language and as a person of deep faith, she would sign a Bible reading to the company's 30 deaf employees every morning.

She went on to work as a human services administrator for Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority for 16 years, where she helped transform the agency.

In 1984, Dorothy Ola Jackson became deputy mayor of intergovernmental relations, where she continued advocating for those who often had no other voice in the city. During her first year in office, she helped organize the city's first day camp for disabled children.

She said, "People who have never had a voice in government can now get a little closer."

Deputy Mayor Jackson has received many awards and accolades throughout

her life, including the United Way Distinguished Service Award, the Bert A. Polsky Humanitarian Award, the Akron Urban League's Community Service Award, and in 1984, she was named Woman of the Year by Akron Business and Professional Women-USA.

But she often said the most meaningful honor came when the Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority named a property that houses disabled residents, the Dorothy O. Jackson Terrace Apartments in downtown Akron.

Dorothy dedicated her life to serving and helping others and to making Akron a better place for all its residents. The legacy of Deputy Mayor Jackson will live on through her far-reaching work and through the many lives she touched.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. KRISTINA M. JOHNSON

● Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask my Senate colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Kristina M. Johnson and celebrating her investiture as the 16th president of The Ohio State University. As an alum of the university and long-time friend of the Ohio State community, I know the investiture of a president is a significant milestone in the life of this land-grant university.

Since The Ohio State University was founded in 1870, the institution has been guided by 16 presidents, each of whom has left a lasting mark on the history of the university. Since taking office as president on August 24, 2020, Dr. Johnson has already begun to make an impact at Ohio State. She has worked to be an inclusive leader and advance the university's mission to uplift lives through academic and research excellence.

Dr. Johnson has close family ties to Ohio State and Ohio. Her grandfather graduated from Ohio State in 1896, played right guard on one of the early football teams, and was a member of the Tesla Club. Dr. Johnson brings a wealth of experience to this role, having served in numerous leadership roles at prestigious institutions for higher education, most recently as chancellor of the State University of New York. And she has been a public servant, serving as Under Secretary of Energy at the U.S. Department of Energy. Dr. Johnson is married to Veronica Meinhard, and it has been a pleasure to get to know them and discuss the work we can do together to support Ohio students.

With Dr. Johnson's more than 30 years of experience and leadership, the future of Ohio State is indeed bright. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and celebrating this momentous occasion for this university, which is so important to the central Ohio community and to our State. Connie and I wish Dr. Johnson, Veronica, and the entire Buckeye Community well as they embark on this journey together.●

REMEMBERING LYNN AAS

● Mr. CRAMER. Mr. President, on October 28, North Dakota lost one of our heroes. Lynn Aas of Minot, age 100, was to many of us the face of the very best of the Greatest Generation. This child of the Great Depression was raised on a farm near Benedict, ND, and was among the 60,000 North Dakotans who served in the U.S. Armed Forces during World War II.

He enlisted in the U.S. Army in August 1942, after completing his first year of college. He became part of the 193rd Glider Infantry Regiment of the 17th Airborne Division and, after extensive training, was shipped to Liverpool, England, 2 years later.

Lynn's first combat experience was the Battle of the Bulge, one of the costliest battles in American history with more than 80,000 U.S. casualties, including 19,000 American soldiers killed. His division and unit were flown to France and transported by trucks to Bastogne on December 24, 1944. His platoon entered combat on January 7, fighting in deep snow, frigid cold, and heavy fog. Beginning with 55 troopers, Lynn was one of only five survivors to leave the front lines 3 weeks later. The end of January brought his first 2 nights of sleep under a roof in 5 weeks. In February, his platoon fought along the Seigfried Line on Nazi Germany's border.

Later in March 1945, he participated in Operation Varsity, the last large-scale Allied airborne operation of the war. There he was towed in a glider and landed behind enemy lines near Wesel, Germany. Lynn's combat career ended on March 25 when he was wounded in his left arm by shrapnel. Following extensive recuperation back in America, Lynn remained in the Army another 5 months before being honorably discharged on November 1, 1945.

For his valor and commendable 18 months of service during World War II, he was awarded the Purple Heart and Bronze Star medals, in addition to the Glider Badge, Combat Infantryman's Badge, Good Conduct Medal, American Campaign Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with one Bronze Arrowhead and three Bronze Campaign Stars, and the World War II Victory Medal.

After his discharge, Lynn earned business and law degrees from the University of North Dakota, and moved to Minot in 1960, where he and his wife Beverly raised four sons. He managed a medical clinic until retirement, served in the North Dakota Legislature for 8 years and was a delegate to the State's 1972 Constitutional Convention. Until his final days, Lynn remained active in the Minot community.

He shared his World War II story throughout his life, giving a voice to all veterans whose lives were forever impacted because of their selfless service. Lynn attended reunions of the 17th Airborne Division, and in 1999, he visited Europe with other 17th Airborne Division veterans, visiting the locations where they had fought more than

a half century earlier. In 2015, he visited Belgium again to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge. As one of the official representatives from the United States to this observance, Lynn was greeted by many grateful Belgians who had not forgotten what American soldiers did to liberate them from Hitler's tyranny.

In 2017, the French Government awarded Lynn its highest honor, the Knight of the Legion of Honor medal, an award created by Napoleon in 1802. The letter from the French Government notifying Lynn of this award carried these poignant words, "73 years ago you gave your youth to France and the French People. Many of your fellow soldiers did not return, but they remain in our hearts . . . You saved us. We will never forget. For us, the French people, you are a hero. Gratitude and remembrance are forever in our souls."

As he is buried today, we remember the remarkable life of Lynn Aas. He is one of those personalities who, even at the age of 100, you think is never going to die. Yet he has earned this opportunity to rest, and I join all North Dakotans in sending our sincere condolences and prayers to his family. I am grateful that I could count Lynn Aas as a friend and one of my mentors in public service and public life. He will be greatly missed. God bless his memory.●

RECOGNIZING DAY AND DAY FEED MILL

● Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Kentucky small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize Day and Day Feed Mill, a family-owned small business in Columbia, KY, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

In 1954, Garland Day established Day and Day Feed Mill in Columbia, KY. Garland decided to meet the need for a local feed mill providing dairy and beef cattle feeds and supplies. A family-run business from the start, Garland's sons, Allen and Bobby, took over Day and Day Feed Mill in the early 1960s. Continuing the family legacy, Garland's grandsons, Anthony and Gary Day, along with their cousin Ray Brock, stepped up to lead the business in the 1990s. Together, they rebuilt and expanded the business in 2009, building their new location on the same spot as the original Day and Day Feed Mill.

Today, Day and Day Feed Mill continues to thrive as a farm supply store and feed retailer. The family-owned business celebrated its 67th anniversary in 2021 and is led by the third and fourth generation of Days. The full-service farm and ranch supply store plays a critical role in Adair County, providing everything from agro-chemicals and seeds to fishing and hunting supplies. Additionally, the store sup-

ports local Kentucky small businesses, selling hand-crafted goods and gifts. The Days' strong sense of family has built a tight-knit, supportive team, with some families employed there for generations.

Like many small businesses, the Day family has consistently invested in and served their community. They regularly participate in local and regional events, ranging from agricultural fairs to hosting an annual customer appreciation event. Day and Day Feed Mill's outstanding service and high-quality products have consistently earned them recognition from industry groups and community members alike. They were recognized as Business of the Year by the Adair County Cattlemen's Association in 2012 and Outstanding Agriculturist of the Year in 2018 by the Columbia-Adair County Chamber of Commerce. For several years, Day and Day Feed Mill has consistently earned the Adair County Community Voice Readers' Choice Award in several categories, including Best Agriculture Store, Best Sporting Goods/Hunting Store, and Best Customer Service. Over the past year, Day and Day Feed Mills adapted to the challenges caused by the coronavirus pandemic and continued supporting local farmers as they kept the country fed.

Day and Day Feed Mill is a remarkable example of the critical role that small, family-oriented agricultural businesses play in rural communities. Small businesses, like Day and Day Feed Mill, form the heart of towns across Kentucky and play a critical role in Kentucky's agricultural industry. Congratulations to Anthony, Gary, Ray, and the entire team at Day and Day Feed Mill. I wish them the best of luck and look forward to watching their continued growth and success in Kentucky.●

RECOGNIZING REED FAMILY FLORAL

● Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Kentucky small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize Reed Family Floral of Virgie, KY, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

In January 2020, Evan Sykes founded Reed Family Floral. Evan, who grew up in Pike County, was inspired by his family's legacy of entrepreneurship. From 1981 to 2003, his great-aunt and great-grandmother owned and operated a flower shop called Reed Floral. After graduating from Shelby Valley High School and earning an AA from Big Sandy Community and Technical College, Evan decided to honor that legacy and establish his own floral business. Starting with \$500, he began making and selling wreaths. The business grew rapidly, enabling Evan to purchase a small building to house his operation.

When Reed Family Floral expanded again, Evan had the perfect location in mind. In August 2021, Evan moved his business into the same building that had housed his family's flower shop decades earlier.

Today, Reed Family Floral has become a local favorite. As the owner and sole full-time employee, Evan handles every aspect of the business, from accounting and marketing, to floral design and delivery. He prepares flower arrangements for any occasion, including weddings, school functions, and funerals. Evan's floral arrangements are in demand year-round, especially around Valentine's Day and Mother's Day. Notably, Evan balanced his entrepreneurship and education. While running a full-time business, he is pursuing a BA in accounting at Morehead State University. As a nonessential business, Reed Family Floral was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic-induced lockdowns. Evan rose to the challenge, working with other small businesses to source supplies and adapting his contactless delivery options.

Like many small business owners, Evan is active in his community. Locally, Reed Family Floral has sponsored the Pikeville High School tennis team and the Shelby Valley High School cheer team. They provide arrangements for school events, and participate in local fairs. From day one, Reed Family Floral has valued customer service and high-quality products. Recently, they were recognized by local news outlet Mountaintop Media as one of the best flower shops in the area.

Reed Family Floral is a remarkable example of the critical role small businesses play in every aspect of building community. Small businesses like Reed Family Floral form the heart of towns across Kentucky, regularly stepping up to support their communities. Congratulations to Evan and the entire team at Reed Family Floral. I wish them the best of luck and look forward to watching their continued growth and success in Kentucky.●

TRIBUTE TO CAROLYN HOFER

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize my friend, Carolyn Hofer, as she enters retirement after more than 50 years impacting the great State of South Dakota and many of its citizens. Carolyn has worked as an insurance agent, association program administrator, and most recently as the executive vice president of the Independent Insurance Agents of South Dakota, IIASD. In that capacity, she has represented hundreds of Main Street small businesses, their employees, and the communities that they serve. She has done a remarkable job of piloting the association as a strong and thoughtful leader.

Carolyn grew up on a family dairy farm near Worthing, graduated from Lennox High School, and went on to