

but celebrate the accomplishments of this great, honorable man. Mr. President, we ask that you and our colleagues join us in applauding Senator Leatherman's many contributions made to the State of South Carolina. A true champion of South Carolina, Senator Leatherman will be sorely missed.

#### TRIBUTE TO JAMES AND MARTY HARRIS

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, today I rise to honor Wisconsin residents James "Jim" and Marty Harris for their humanitarian work in Southeast Asia and their embrace of those displaced from that region. These two lifelong educators have made it their life's mission to welcome Hmong and Lao refugee families to Central Wisconsin, as well as make a positive impact for those living in Laos.

Over the course of more than 20 years, the Harris' have made over 20 trips to Laos. Beginning in 2000, they began the effort to reconnect families from their Wisconsin community with friends and relatives left behind when they departed their homeland. During these trips, they assisted Lao villagers in desperate need of medical care, helped provide hospitals with medical supplies, and provided many Lao schools with their very first library, a most appropriate endeavor for the now retired elementary school principal and retired English and art teacher.

However, their largest impact comes with their assistance in the removal of bombs, land mines, and other unexploded ordnances that dot the Laotian landscape after years of war and turmoil. As Jim told me during a visit I made to Laos several years ago, "Many villagers are waiting 40 years for four days of help." To address this, the Harris's founded the nonprofit "We Help War Victims," an organization that assists survivors of war and other conflicts to rebuild their lives. With half of its annual budget stemming from fundraising sales of Lao coffee beans, it allows paid teams to continue ordnance removal even when Jim and Marty aren't able to be halfway around the world. Countless lives and limbs have been saved because of this continuing work and dedication. Now, villages can enjoy expanded gardens and rice fields. This increased agricultural output allows these populations to better sustain themselves and provide food for neighboring communities.

With every trip, Jim returned to Wisconsin with relics and mementos gathered during his time in Laos. Slowly, this collection has amassed to become one of, if not the largest, known private collection of Southeast Asian artifacts in all of the United States. Jim started off by displaying some of these items at the school he worked at as principal. In 2016, he made the collection more accessible by developing an exhibition called "From Laos to America: The Spirit of '76", which was housed at the Wausau Center Mall in

Wausau, WI. Since then, more than 10,000 people have visited the museum.

The "From Laos to America" collection now enters into a new chapter in 2021. This impressive collection has found a new home in Washington Square in downtown Wausau. Jim and Marty have also partnered with the Hmong American Center to ensure that this collection remains in central Wisconsin. This new home will highlight the full collection and provide educational opportunities so the community and visitors alike can learn more about the Southeast Asian refugee experience. I am pleased to celebrate this important partnership and the new home for this important collection, and I am proud to commend Jim and Marty on their tireless humanitarian work and advocacy in Southeast Asia and in central Wisconsin.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### COUNTRY MUSIC HALL OF FAME 2020 INDUCTEES

• Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, it is my privilege to finally congratulate the 2020 Country Music Hall of Fame members-elect Dean Dillon, Marty Stuart, and Hank Williams, Jr. With the postponement of their medallion ceremony until this coming Sunday, I can tell you that Music City is ready to welcome them into the Circle.

Dean Dillon, this year's songwriter inductee, is the heart and soul behind some of country music's most iconic hits. With imagery as vivid as a golden sun-drenched memory and melodies as smooth as Tennessee whiskey, Dean captured the attention of music fans and earned the admiration of the industry's most well-respected artists. In Nashville, the good word is that "it all begins with a song," and in Dean's case, his songbook has inspired generations of young writers to give themselves up to the art of storytelling.

Marty Stuart, this year's modern era artist inductee, is a jack of all trades and an undisputed master of each of them. He started his journey to the Hall of Fame at the age of 13 and, over the course of his career, earned the respect of his peers with his skills as a musician, singer, songwriter, producer, and television host. Today, he is recognized not only for his contributions to his craft, but for his role as one of the foremost custodians of country music's legacy.

Hank Williams, Jr., this year's veterans era artist inductee, bridged generations and genres with his own special blend of family tradition, outlaw swagger, and a singular disregard for the rules. Over the course of five decades and more than 100 appearances on the charts, Hank proved that what many insiders foolishly dismissed as the underbelly of country music was in fact home to musicians and fans alike who preferred to create their own abolition rather than seek it within the glittering confines of the mainstream.

On behalf of the entire Tennessee delegation, I thank Dean, Marty, and Hank for their passion and artistry. Your talents are a gift, gentlemen. Thank you for sharing them with us.●

#### TRIBUTE TO DAVID J. BERGER

• Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and thanking an outstanding public servant, Mayor David J. Berger, who will retire at the end of this month, after dedicating his life to serving his beloved city of Lima, OH. He leaves this office with a legacy of service and accomplishments.

Dave has served as the mayor of Lima, OH, for a remarkable 32 years. He is the proud son of an IBEW union worker and was raised with a keen sense of service to others and a dedication to his Catholic faith—two things that would guide him throughout his career. Dave's faith led him to attend a seminary high school and then St. Meinrad's seminary in southern Indiana. Upon leaving the seminary, he attended Catholic University of America in Washington, DC, where he received both his bachelor's and master's degrees.

Following graduation, his faith and commitment to service brought him to Lima, OH, where he served as the executive director of Rehab Project. He worked to bring opportunity for a second chance to Ohioans in prison, helping provide training to build and renovate homes. This work led him to run for mayor in 1989 and, after a successful campaign, serve in that position ever since.

From his work serving as a founding member of the bipartisan Ohio Mayors Alliance, to serving as cochair of the U.S. Conference of Mayors Water Council, Dave has worked with mayors and legislators on both sides of the aisle to always be a persistent advocate for the people of Lima and the concerns and challenges faced by many cities throughout the industrial Midwest.

Dave is well known for his work advocating for water infrastructure and has spent half of his career as mayor leading negotiations with the U.S. and Ohio EPAs to work to solve a combined and sanitary sewer overflow problem that has plagued many cities. My staff and I regularly met with Dave about these issues and acted upon his ideas and suggestions.

We have also worked together on several community projects. From helping to launch a My Brother's Keeper chapter in his city to advocating for public infrastructure investments or ensuring employers in Lima honor the dignity of work by respecting labor union rights, David and I have spent years collaborating to help the local community flourish.

With his commitment to push for research and economic development, and improving the city's downtown, Dave has lent his time and wisdom to serving on the board of directors of the

Ohio Energy Advanced Manufacturing Center; Downtown Lima, Inc.; the Allen Economic Development Group; and West Ohio Community Action Partnership. His pursuit of partnerships among these organizations and many community-driven task forces have helped support the city's workers and helped retain vital employers in the community, including the Lima Refinery, the Joint Systems Manufacturing Center, JSMC, and the Ford Engine Plant.

I am grateful that our friendship long predates both of our political careers—Dave is a fellow native of Mansfield, OH. He is also a fellow Eagle Scout. One of my most prized photos is that of then-Col. John Glenn posing with me as I am awarded the Eagle Scout badge at the Johnny Appleseed Council's Eagle Scout ceremony. What that photo does not show is that Mayor Berger was there as well.

Dave's legacy will live on in the city he loved—the jobs he saved and secured, the water infrastructure he improved, the businesses he helped thrive and grow, and, most importantly, the lives he helped change for the better.

I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing my friend, Mayor David J. Berger, a long and happy retirement. Dave has done so much good for so long for the people of Lima, and because of his work, Lima's next mayor, Sharetta Smith, has a strong foundation to continue addressing the challenges facing this city in the heart of Allen County.

Dave, thank you for 32 years of dedicated service and for the legacy you have created. I know it has not always been easy but all your efforts are appreciated.●

#### TRIBUTE TO MAJOR DANIELA RAGEN

● Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today I have the distinct honor of recognizing MAJ Daniela Ragen, U.S. Army National Guard, of Broadwater County, as Montanan of the Month for her service to our Nation.

Daniela knew from a young age that she wanted to be a soldier. As soon as she enlisted in the Army, Daniela faced a challenge—a language barrier. She persisted and studied tirelessly to pass her English exams with high scores—so high she was accused of cheating and was forced to retake the exam. That didn't deter her. She retook the exam and passed again with flying colors.

Following a period of service on Active Duty, Major Ragen joined the Arizona National Guard, where she continued her career as an analyst in the Joint Counter Narcotics Task Force. Major Ragen then enrolled in the selective 15-month officer candidate school, where she was 1 of only 6 participants who graduated from a starting class of 21 students.

In addition to serving her country, Daniela has served the great State of Montana as a coordinator for the Montana National Guard Counter Drug

Program. In this position, Daniela represents the best of both the National Guard and the State of Montana through her values of service, leadership, and persistence. She was even selected by her colleagues to serve as the chair for Northwest Region Advisory Committee for the National Counterdrug Program.

On top of being an exemplary Montanan and soldier, Daniela is a wife and a mother of five children, one of whom is currently serving in the Montana National Guard. Her husband, LTC Chase Ragen, is also a long-serving officer in the Montana National Guard.

Major Ragen truly embodies the values of a soldier and the spirit of a Montanan. It is my honor to recognize Daniela for her resilience, courage, and commitment to serving her great State and country. Keep up the great work, Major Ragen.●

#### RECOGNIZING CHEZ PANISSE

● Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise to recognize the 50th anniversary of Chez Panisse, the pioneering home of farm-to-table cooking in Berkeley, CA.

Chez Panisse was founded in 1971 by Alice Waters, then a young Montessori teacher. She felt that by strengthening her community's connection to seasonal foods and local growers, she could foster new ideas and connections. At the core of the new restaurant was a sense of social responsibility and limitless communal potential.

Guided by Alice Waters' ideals, Chez Panisse spurred a movement of slow food and local eating, showing that sustainability could ground a gourmet menu. Alice Waters mentored countless young chefs on her staff, many of whom went on to open restaurants, found companies, or write cookbooks of their own. Today, the style pioneered at Chez Panisse is known as California cuisine.

And Alice Waters never lost sight of the principles that inspired her. To commemorate the restaurant's 25th anniversary in 1996, she launched the Chez Panisse Foundation, which supports organic gardening and culinary education in schools. Thousands of schools across the world now benefit from the curriculum developed through her Edible Schoolyard Project.

Chez Panisse is an icon of the California culinary scene, offering a testament to the fruits of eating locally and sustainably. I congratulate Alice Waters and all the staff of Chez Panisse on this remarkable anniversary and send my best wishes for the decades to come.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Swann, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages

from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:52 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 796. An act to codify maternity care coordination programs at the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 147. An act to amend title 10, United States Code, to make certain improvements to services and benefits for veterans and separating members of the Armed Forces with respect to apprenticeship programs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2433. An act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to take actions necessary to ensure that certain individuals may update the burn pit registry with a registered individual's cause of death, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2915. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 regarding the procurement of certain items related to national security interests for Department of Homeland Security frontline operational components, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4233. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to furnish Vet Center readjustment counseling and related mental health services to veterans and members of the Armed Forces using certain educational assistance benefits.

H.R. 4591. An act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress periodic reports on the costs, performance metrics, and outcomes of the Department of Veterans Affairs Electronic Health Record Modernization program.

H.R. 4626. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to require an independent assessment of health care delivery systems and management processes of the Department of Veterans Affairs be conducted once every 10 years, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5516. An act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a report on the Veterans Integration to Academic Leadership program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5603. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish protections for a member of the Armed Forces who leaves a course of education, paid for with certain educational assistance, to perform certain service.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 147. An act to amend title 10, United States Code, to make certain improvements to services and benefits for veterans and separating members of the Armed Forces with respect to apprenticeship programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.