

Steve's wife Lisa; his brothers William and Robert and their wives Brenda and Carolyn; his nephews John and David and their wives Laurie and Alison; the rest of his extended family and friends; and the FSU community. Henry B. Adams wrote, "A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops." I hope that the family and friends who mourn Dr. Stephen Simpson's passing can find solace in the knowledge that he surely has affected eternity and his influence will continue to ripple far and wide among the students he so ably taught and inspired.●

RECOGNIZING THE NORTH DAKOTA GIRLS CLASS B BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS FROM KINDRED HIGH SCHOOL

● Mr. CRAMER. Madam President, last year I had the honor of congratulating two State championship teams from my alma mater, Kindred High School, in boys basketball in March and boys football in November.

Last week, it was the Kindred Vikings girls basketball team that took home the championship trophy at the North Dakota Class B State tournament, winning a third State title in just 6 years. These girls began their season with a win and kept on winning. They entered the tournament undefeated and after their last game were 23-0.

In their final game, the Vikings played last year's State champions, the Grafton Spoilers, dominating the game early and ending with a 64-40 win. This was the largest championship point margin of victory since 1991. Leading the team was senior guard Abby Duchscherer, who scored 25 points and 10 rebounds. She was also named Senior Athlete of the Year and Tournament MVP.

Having three State championship sports teams in a year, along with its overall general academic excellence, speaks highly of the quality of the Kindred Public School system. I commend all administrators, teachers, and staff, as well as the entire community for the role they play in supporting quality education.

For this basketball championship, however, it is the awesome young women on the team who deserve the greatest recognition. They are Charli McQuillan, Peyton Gette, Avery Bartels, Abigail Duchscherer, Kacie Burner, Lexi Ogren, Kristina Freier, Ana Freier, Laela Eisenschenk, McKenzie Schmitz, Avery Amerman, Terryn Johnson, Leah Rolland, Kennedy Bakko, and Tess Rohrbeck.

I congratulate the team, as well as Coach Sam Brandt, assistant coaches Tenille Bakko, Ashley Fahnhorst, Perry Piatz, and Danni Sanders and all the loyal fans on another Kindred Vikings State championship.

I join all North Dakotans in thanking each and every player on this team for inspiring us with your excellence. You continue to show us what can be

achieved by combining faith and passion with determination and teamwork.●

REMEMBERING STEPHANIE DENISE SHANNON

● Ms. DUCKWORTH. Madam President, I rise today to pay tribute to the remarkable life of Ms. Stephanie Denise Shannon, who passed away on September 8, 2021.

Stephanie was born March 24, 1986, in Detroit, MI, to her late father, William Everett Shannon, Sr., and her mother, Toni Laverne Shannon. Upon completing high school, Stephanie attended Wayne State University, where she pursued her passion for helping animals by studying veterinary science. To her close friends, she will be remembered as a kind and gentle spirit that loved video games and enjoyed watching a variety of films. Stephanie was not only a dedicated and loyal friend, daughter, and sister, but she was also a devoted mother to her son, Cason, whom she referred to as her "Prince" and her daughter, Madison, whom she referred to as her "Mini Me." The love and light that made so many love and appreciate Stephanie will be passed down and live through her incredible children. May her radiant and loving spirit be remembered by all those who knew her.●

TRIBUTE TO PYET DESPAIN

● Mr. MARSHALL. Madam President, I rise today to recognize the incredible performance and achievement from Kansas's own, Ms. Pyet DeSpain. Pyet took home the grand prize during FOX's inaugural "Next Level Chef" season and is officially the first Next Level Chef.

A native of Kansas City, KS, Pyet developed a passion for cooking while helping in the kitchens of her family's taquerias and restaurants. This passion for the kitchen led her to attend Le'Cole Culinaire to pursue a culinary education and career. A chef and an entrepreneur, Pyet started her own business, "Pyet's Plates," back in 2016 to promote her passion for wellness, nutrition, and healthy lifestyle choices. A lifetime of hard work and dedication to her craft has culminated into Pyet earning her Next Level Chef title and a hefty cash prize as a nice bonus.

The skills that Pyet developed throughout her time spent in kitchens across the country allowed her to succeed on the inaugural season of "Next Level Chef," and I am sure that the lessons learned from this season will help Pyet to develop into an even more talented chef, entrepreneur, and restaurant owner. I look forward to seeing how Pyet's passion for good food, healthy lifestyle choices, and respect for tradition will develop into future culinary endeavors.

I ask my colleagues now to join me in recognizing this outstanding achievement by Pyet DeSpain. She has

made her family, friends, community, and State incredibly proud, and we are all rooting for continued success throughout her career.●

TRIBUTE TO BARRY FEAKE

● Mr. MARSHALL. Madam President, I rise today to honor and recognize Barry Feaker of Topeka, KS. Barry has served the homeless and impoverished since 1986 as executive director of the Topeka Rescue Mission, TRM. He plans to step down from this position but continue to serve as strategic adviser.

TRM is a Christian organization that works with community partners to give shelter, meals, clothing, and other needed items to homeless and impoverished individuals. They do this by sharing the love of Jesus Christ with every person they encounter. Barry has served the Topeka community for 36 years. In April 1986, 15-20 homeless individuals were staying at TRM per night. By 2019, that number has grown to an astounding 200-300 people per night, a true testament to Barry's work and determination over the years.

As he finishes out his time as executive director of TRM, I hope he is able to reflect on the impact he has had on the Topeka Community. He not only expanded the services they provide and number of people working at TRM, but also increased TRM's annual budget from \$70,000 to \$5.3 million. Along with that, he increased operating one singular men's shelter, to two shelters, a warehouse, a distribution center, and a Children's Palace. Barry offers his role with excitement for what is ahead at TRM. He believes it is time for the next generation to take control. He believes that the job is not done and there are more people in need than ever. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the wonderful career of Mr. Barry Feaker and wish him nothing but joy and happiness in his next chapter of life.●

RECOGNIZING BURCHETT'S HEATING AND COOLING

● Mr. PAUL. Madam 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 the small business, Burchett's Heating and Cooling of Paintsville, KY, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Rogell Burchett had a keen eye for business opportunities, which is why he opened Burchett's Heating and Cooling in 1978. As a gas company employee, he could not ignore all the new homes being built in his area when he knew there was little market for natural gas and furnace installations. So he started what was then a side venture called Burchett's Heating and Cooling. Rogell's vision and dedication allowed

that side venture to grow into a family business, now entering into its third generation of management.

When the business was first founded, Burchett's operations mainly involved natural gas and furnace work. However, as Kentucky saw the coal industry abate, Burchett's Heating and Cooling adapted to include more geothermal work, as well as some light commercial work. Clearly, Rogell passed his sharp intuition for running a business along to his children and grandchildren, as this transition took place over multiple generations. Growing into what his father created, Neal Burchett took over the business when his father Rogell retired. Later on, Neal's son Ryan Burchett would also become part of the operation, serving as the management arm of this family-owned business. Together, these three generations of Burchett men have kept Paintsville warm during the cold Kentucky winters and cool in the summers, with the comfort of Paintsville citizens remaining their top priority.

With over 40 years of experience, Burchett's Heating and Cooling maintains close relationships with customers that count on them for quality, year after year. Of course, when the business stays in the family as it has with the Burchett men, it is easy to see how the community of Paintsville could place their trust in their services. That being said, Burchett's Heating and Cooling remains an active member of the Paintsville community outside of their normal business operations. Staying true to their family-owned nature, the business sponsors the local high school basketball and football teams, teams that both Neal and Ryan used to play for during their high school years. Burchett's Heating and Cooling also provides free services to their local church so that parishioners can worship comfortably.

Small businesses like Burchett's Heating and Cooling are the lifeblood of small towns across Kentucky, and they serve as an inspiring example of how the entrepreneurial spirit transcends multiple generations. Congratulations to Neal and Ryan and the entire Burchett's Heating and Cooling team. I wish them the best of luck and look forward to watching their continued growth and success in Kentucky.●

TRIBUTE TO BRIGADIER GENERAL TYLER SMITH

● Mr. ROMNEY. Madam President, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding Utahn whose decades of uniformed service will soon conclude. BG Tyler Smith, currently assistant adjutant general of the Utah National Guard, will retire after 36 years of decorated service to Utah and the Nation.

Brigadier General Smith's military service began with his enlistment in the U.S. Army in 1986. Soon after, he deployed in support of Operation Desert Storm, earning liberation med-

als from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, respectively. Upon returning to Utah, he joined the National Guard, attended officer candidate school, and commissioned in the 1457th Engineer Battalion of the Engineer Branch, serving as a platoon leader and company commander. In 2008, he deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and earned the Bronze Star and Combat Action Badge for his efforts and outstanding leadership.

Given his depth of experience and impressive work ethic, the brigadier general earned multiple appointments throughout his career. He served as operations officer in the 115th Engineer Group, commander of the 85th Weapons of Mass Destruction-Civil Support Team, and range control officer at Camp Williams, UT, where he was also deputy commander of the Utah Training Center before his appointment as garrison commander in 2014. Brigadier General Smith served as director of the Utah Army National Guard's Construction and Facilities Management Office before his appointment as assistant adjutant general.

In addition to the aforementioned awards, he also earned the Distinguished Service Medal; Legion of Merit; Meritorious Service Medal with 2 Bronze oakleaf clusters; Army Commendation Medal with 1 Bronze oakleaf cluster; Army Achievement Medal with 1 Bronze oakleaf cluster; Army Good Conduct Medal with 2 Bronze Loops; Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal with 2 oakleaf clusters; National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Service Star; Southwest Asia Service Medal with 2 Bronze Service Stars; Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Bronze Service Star; Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; Armed Forces Reserve Medal with Silver Hourglass Device and M Device; Army Service Ribbon (ASR); Overseas Service Ribbon with Numeral 3; Army Reserve Components Overseas Training Ribbon; and the NATO Medal (ISAF).

His professional success is also matched by impressive educational accolades. Before his tenure as assistant professor of military science, ROTC, at Utah Valley University, he earned several degrees himself, including a master of public administration from Brigham Young University and a master of strategic studies from the Army War College.

BG Tyler Smith has demonstrated remarkable character as an exemplary public servant and a loving husband, father, and grandfather. Thank you for your dedication to our great State of Utah and the United States of America. We wish you and your family all the best.●

TRIBUTE TO MEGAN NICK

● Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, I join with Vermonters across our State to give a huge congratulations to Megan Nick for her incredible achievement in winning a bronze medal at the

Winter Olympics in Beijing in women's aerobics. Megan is an inspiration to so many Vermonters, and we are tremendously proud of her. Megan credits her parents, Jeff and Colleen Nick, for instilling in her the value of hard work, which certainly showed all throughout the 2022 Olympic Games.

Growing up in Shelburne, Megan was a competitive gymnast and spent more than 10 years training at the Green Mountain Training Center in Williston. The similarities between the two sports, along with her drive for perfection, drew Megan to skiing. Then ahead of her senior year at Champlain Valley Union High School, Megan was challenged to try aerial skiing and found a new passion. In talking about the transition to becoming an aerial skier, Megan gives credit to her gymnastics coach, Stefan Hruska, for teaching her the spatial awareness required to be successful in the sport.

While she learned key skills in the gym, it was at Cochran's Ski Area—a small, family-operated, nonprofit ski area in Richmond, VT, and home to another Beijing Olympian—that Megan learned to ski. That is what our small State is all about: communities coming together to help young people achieve their goals in a supportive, encouraging environment.

Like many Vermonters, Megan grew up loving the outdoors. As she said herself in a recent interview following her Olympic medal, her Vermont upbringing taught her “the importance of sustainability and the role that we can play in helping our environment while also being able to play in it,” something that she finds particularly important as an aerial skier.

This was Megan's first Olympic Games, and she took bronze in her first event. Megan showed everyone that with courage and hard work there is nothing you can't accomplish. I heartily applaud Megan for the positive impact she has had not only on Vermonters, but on young people all over the country who have a dream. Megan is an inspiration to us all and is a true testament of hard work leading to success.

Megan's level of commitment and accomplishments deserve all of our sincere admiration. Vermont is remarkably proud of Megan, and we know she is going to continue to be among our brightest hopes for a better tomorrow—both on and off the slopes.●

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.