

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 143. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted yea. •

TRIBUTE TO KATHY O'NAN

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, when a tornado tore through the city of Mayfield, KY, last December, America's eyes turned to the community. Volunteers, FEMA workers, and elected officials quickly rushed to the scene to offer our help. But in the aftermath of the devastating storm, amid all the commotion, one figure stood out above all the rest, rallying her town, coordinating recovery efforts, and promising that Mayfield would bounce back, no matter how long it took to rebuild. That inspiring leader was Mayfield Mayor Kathy O'Nan, and today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mayor O'Nan for her leadership and for recently earning recognition as the Mayfield-Graves County Chamber of Commerce Woman of the Year.

In the past few months, Mayor O'Nan has become a familiar figure to anyone tracking Western Kentucky's recovery from last year's tornados. To the residents of Mayfield, though, she has long served as a standalone advocate for their town and an exemplary community leader. Mayor O'Nan got her start in Mayfield as a high school teacher and church choir director and still knows how to command a rowdy room, whether it is full of students or national reporters. She uses those skills to wear the many hats required of a mayor in a tight-knit town like Mayfield, from community cheerleader, to event coordinator, to business developer.

When I first arrived in Mayfield after last December's storms, Mayor O'Nan came up to me immediately, rattling off all the Federal help her community needed to recover. On every subsequent visit, she has been there front and center, ready to discuss storm relief. We have worked closely to provide Western Kentucky with the resources required to rebuild. I am incredibly grateful to

have such a hard-working, knowledgeable, and capable friend on the ground.

Mayor O'Nan's leadership has been noticed by figures around the country in the past few months. But, as always, her first priority is Mayfield, so I am confident her Woman of the Year Award from the Mayfield-Graves County Chamber of Commerce means more to her than any outside recognition ever could. After all, the residents of Mayfield aren't just her constituents. They are also her neighbors, family, and friends.

Mr. President, the Mayfield Messenger highlighted Mayor O'Nan's recognition as the Mayfield-Graves County Chamber of Commerce Woman of the Year in a recent article. I ask unanimous consent that the article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Mayfield Messenger, Apr. 23, 2022]

TO BE THE FIRST ONE TO VOLUNTEER: O'NAN NAMED AS MAYFIELD BUSINESS WOMAN OF THE YEAR

The Mayfield-Graves County Chamber of Commerce held its annual Women in Business luncheon at Trace Creek Baptist Church on Thursday. The event is held yearly to celebrate the accomplishments of females in the business industry within the community.

The 2022 Kentucky Derby themed luncheon included lunch, a keynote speaker, and the announcement of the Woman of the Year award. This year's recipient is Mayor Kathy O'Nan.

"Our award this year is named after Mary Propes, a woman who has served the community for many years," said Tanya Rose, vice-president of quality assurance research and development at Mayfield Consumer Products, presenting sponsor of the event. "Mary told me that she wants the recipient to be someone to have the commitment to this community as she does, someone who is an authentic role model. To lead by setting an example. We are looking for a female today to give this award to, that distributes that characteristic. She must have significant community involvement outside of what their job requires."

Ester Hubbard was brought onto the stage, along with the mayor's daughters, Meg O'Nan-Holmes and Ellen O'Nan.

When Hubbard first came to Mayfield in the 1980s, her husband had just had back surgery and was hospitalized in Memphis. She had two young children at the time who were both in preschool.

"I thought woe is me. I'm here trying to take care of these children. Well, my friends told me about this woman in Mayfield who also had two preschool children, however, her husband has a brain tumor and he's not expected to live," said Hubbard. "I thought to myself—if she can do it, I can do it."

O'Nan quickly became Hubbard's role model, before even knowing her.

"What a great role model she has been for me, for her girls, and for all of the people she has touched," said Hubbard.

O'Nan was a former teacher at Mayfield High School, and a choir director at her church prior to being elected mayor.

"She was such a good role model, and still is," said Hubbard. "These young people that she was around—she was a social studies teacher, and part of that is citizenship. She didn't talk about it, she acted on it."

Even though O'Nan was not born in Mayfield, Hubbard states that she was, and remains a wonderful part of this community.

"She gave to the school, going to every game or activity scheduled. She gave to the church, she gave to the community," said Hubbard. "But she still had time for real emergencies, like when my Jake was in second grade and they wouldn't let him practice because he didn't have all his gear. We hopped in the car and got him some, because to K.O. (O'Nan), that was an emergency."

O'Nan is known for her heart to help others, and her want to ease pain and put hope into the universe. At 5 a.m. on Dec. 11, O'Nan told the nation about the devastation Mayfield had just gone through—but also that there's always hope.

"I woke up the morning after the tornado, texts from people asking if we were okay of course," said Hubbard. "But then the rest were saying that my mayor was awesome. I was absolutely overwhelmed with the number of calls telling me over and over that my mayor is fantastic."

Ellen O'Nan spoke out about her mother's nickname—K.O.

"It originated when I was a senior in high school. I used to be grounded a lot, and when people would ask if I could do something—friends would say 'she can't, she's grounded, K.O. says no,'" said Ellen. "I always thought it was fitting though, because, in the boxing world, K.O. means to knock out. That's how she always approached challenges, anything hard in her life. She'd just knock them out."

As Ellen O'Nan thanked her mother for teaching her lessons about knocking out, O'Nans other daughter, Meg O'Nan-Holmes spoke about how she admired her mother throughout her life for so many things.

"For the entirety of my life, I've admired you," said Meg O'Nan-Holmes. "But the biggest thing I admire is how strong you are. When I think about strong women, I think about her."

"I'm not a businesswoman. I'm an old school teacher, and I'm very proud to be an old school teacher," said O'Nan. "It's an honor to stand in front of you today. When my daughters were three and six, my husband did pass away."

O'Nan stated through all the pain and sorrow, a friend of hers said that she had been given a gift. She would have a special relationship with both of her daughters.

"I've done some really fun things in life, received honors I probably only half deserve, but in no way ever can I ever dispute the fact that the greatest part of my life is these two girls," said O'Nan. "They are my life. And life is to be fun."

O'Nan pointed out the women at her table, who work in Mayfield's city government.

"There are ten women who work in our government—if you were my student, you should know how important women getting the right to vote is to me," said O'Nan. "I always talked about my hero, Alice Hall. These ten women who sit with me at this table would not be here in this position today if it were not for our sisters who fought before us, to get us that way. To have a right to vote, to serve—to realize our importance."

Keynote speaker Alyson Van Hooser, spoke on the true meaning of leadership. She noted that meeting a need, and seeing a need is the importance of a true leader. That leadership is not a title, however, it is a characteristic.

Attendees were given a copy of Van Hooser's book, 'Accelerate Your Success,' along with a goodie bag filled with items from this year's sponsors.

The following were sponsors of the event: Mayfield Consumer Products, FNB Bank, Re-Fabbed Boutique, Fox Wealth Management, US Bank, CFSB, WK&T, First Kentucky Bank, Regions Bank, Mayfield Water and Electric Systems, West Kentucky Rural Electric, AwardMasters, Centrifugal Technologies, CPlant Federal Credit Union, Kyle

Smith Designs, Graves County Economic Development, and Pilgrims.

REMEMBERING JAMES K. JACKSON

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I rise today to remember and honor James K. Jackson, specialist in International Trade and Finance in the Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division of the Congressional Research Service, CRS. James passed away on February 17, 2022, after a serious illness. He had a distinguished career of more than 35 years at CRS, serving Congress on international trade and economic policy issues.

James exemplified the very best of CRS during his decades of direct support for Congress. He achieved a remarkable record of accomplishment through his work for Members and congressional staff. James played a vital role in Congress' consideration of important legislation and was well known for his authoritative analysis of critical international economic and policy issues before Congress, including on foreign investment and reform of the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States—CFIUS—when I chaired the Senate Banking Committee. He also was intricately involved in major trade policy legislation and debates before the Senate Finance Committee, including its work on understanding the economic effects of U.S. trade agreements before Congress. My senior staff used to tell me that they had James on speed dial during the major reform of the CFIUS process during 2017–2018, a testament to James' expertise and assistance on this major legislation.

There are many more examples of James' authoritative, nonpartisan, and objective expertise and analysis for Congress. In addition to being an expert on foreign investment and related policies, James had deep knowledge of the United States' role in the global economy and most recently was the lead CRS expert on the global effects of COVID-19, writing and consulting extensively for Congress on this issue. He had deep expertise in international economics and trade and was gifted in explaining complicated economic issues in a way that those without an economics background could understand. During the 2008–2009 global financial crisis, James played a key role in helping Congress to understand the deep interconnected nature of the crisis and its financial and economic underpinnings at work in major economies. His work in explaining the economics of trade and trade agreements was invaluable, especially during the Senate Finance Committee's consideration of major free trade agreements. The breadth and depth of James' international economic policy expertise will be truly missed as Congress continues its work on these important issues.

I offer my sincere condolences to James' family, friends, and his colleagues at CRS during this difficult

time and hope they may take comfort in the knowledge of his indelible contribution to the work of Congress on international trade and economic policy.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I also rise today to remember and honor the distinguished service of James Jackson.

For decades, James devoted his time and talent to helping Congress understand complex international trade and economic policy issues. I am thankful to have been a beneficiary of James' hard work. During the 115th Congress' when Senator CRAPO and I served as chair and ranking member of the Senate committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, the Committee undertook a substantial effort to consider, and ultimately enact, legislation that reformed the process for screening foreign investment in the United States. As Senator CRAPO noted, we relied on James' thoughtful analysis and expertise throughout the consideration of that important legislation. James briefed staff, evaluated proposed legislative language, and provided comprehensive, detailed analysis and reports during consideration of the bill. After it became law, the committee continued to rely on James to evaluate the executive branch's implementation of it.

I join Senator CRAPO in offering my sincere condolences to James' friends and family and his colleagues at CRS. They are in our thoughts during this difficult time.

TRIBUTE TO RALPH WHITE

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, as a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, I would like to recognize an outstanding public servant, Mr. Ralph White, who has dedicated his career to providing bidders for government contracts with an inexpensive and expeditious means to seek accountability within the government contracting process. Mr. White will retire on May 29, 2022, after a distinguished, 39-year career in public service, including serving 33 years at the Government Accountability Office—GAO—where he is currently a managing associate general counsel for the procurement law division.

As a Senate staffer during the beginning of his career, Mr. White was instrumental in the drafting of the Competition in Contracting Act of 1984, which establishes statutory authority for GAO's bid protest function, under which thousands of bid protests are filed each year. Since joining GAO in 1989, Mr. White handled bid protests as a writing attorney/hearing officer, as an assistant general counsel leading a team of GAO attorneys, and since early 2010, as a managing associate general counsel leading GAO's bid protest forum. Since becoming a managing associate general counsel, Mr. White has successfully led GAO's procurement law division through numerous large

and complicated bid protests and has been recognized by the government contracting community as a preeminent legal mind in this field. In recognition of this expertise and knowledge, he is regularly sought out to speak and provide insights into the bid protest process throughout the government, academia, and industry. Throughout his tenure, Mr. White has managed the resolution of protests that have touched upon nearly every aspect of federal procurement spending. In addition, Mr. White has received numerous awards during his GAO career, including GAO's Distinguished Service award in 2013 and the General Counsel's Award in March 2010 for outstanding leadership on several initiatives relating to GAO's bid protest process, as well as contributions to many significant bid protest decisions.

Thanks to the dedication and expertise of Mr. White, our government contracting process provides bidders with an inexpensive and expeditious means to report violations of procurement law and regulation, to the benefit of all that value transparency, accountability, and functionality in government.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL SCOTT WILKINSON

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, today I honor a superb leader, liaison, and soldier. After a year of service with the Army Office of the Chief, legislative liaison, as the chief, Army Senate Liaison Division, COL Scott Wilkinson was selected to serve as the deputy commanding officer for Support with the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell. On this occasion, I believe it is fitting to recognize Colonel Wilkinson's distinguished service and dedication to fostering the relationship between the U.S. Army and this Chamber.

Colonel Wilkinson grew up in an Army family. He received his commission in 1994 as the Distinguished Military Graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology ROTC program and his undergraduate degree from Harvard University. An aviation officer by designation, Colonel Wilkinson has led our Nation's young men and women at home and abroad, most prominently as the chief of staff for the U.S. Army Special Operations Command, located at Fort Bragg, NC, and commander of the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, located at Fort Campbell, KY. Colonel Wilkinson has also served in multiple command and staff positions within the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment. Known as the Night Stalkers, soldiers of the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment are highly trained and have been actively and continuously engaged in the combat operations since October 2001.

The Army has consistently relied upon Colonel Wilkinson for his exceptional leadership and unparalleled