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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

work ethic. He has deployed widely for training across Europe, the Middle East, and Africa; operationally in support of Operations JOINT ENDEAVOR and JOINT GUARD in Bosnia-Herzegovina; and to combat in support of multiple contingencies and named operations including ENDURING FREEDOM, FREEDOM SENTINEL, IRAQI FREEDOM, INHERENT RESOLVE, and YUKON SCEPTER.

Colonel Wilkinson has excelled in numerous other leadership positions in the Army, most recently as the chief, Army Senate Liaison. In the Russell Senate Office Building and around the globe, Colonel Wilkinson continued the tradition of strengthening Army relationships with Members of Congress and their staffs.

Over the course of the last year, Colonel Wilkinson provided support to multiple congressional delegations to locations within the United States and to various countries around the world. He became a trusted adviser and friend to many of us. He distinguished himself by going above and beyond the call of duty to facilitate and successfully execute each and every trip, despite any number of weather, aircraft, and diplomatic complications.

This June, Colonel Wilkinson departs Washington, DC. This Chamber will feel his absence. I join many past and present Members of Congress in my gratitude and appreciation to Colonel Wilkinson for his outstanding leadership and unwavering support of the missions of the U.S. Army. I especially recognize his patient and supportive family, Mrs. Mindy Wilkinson, and his two daughters, Blakely and Parker. I wish this Army family the best as they move to Fort Campbell.

TRIBUTE TO DAN AND JAN SMOOTS

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I rise today during national small business week to honor and recognize Dan and Jan Smoots of Emporia, KS. The Smoots were recently announced as the Small Business Administration's Small Business Persons of the Year for Kansas, and once you hear why, it is clear to see they are more than deserving of the award.

The Smoots' business, Fanestil Meats, was recognized in part for surviving multiple flood disasters on the Cottonwood River. Their facility's foundation is just south of Emporia in the flood plain, making it susceptible to flooding any given year. Yet, through the hurdles, the Smoots persevered to keep their business running. Of course, the COVID-19 pandemic brought on a whole new set of challenges for the Smoots, but once again, they trekked along. With 100 employees to take care of, along with unprecedented supply chain disruptions, they had to be resourceful through this new challenge. Thankfully, Fanestil Meats was able to secure a loan through the Paycheck Protection Program, which

the Smoots say was instrumental in keeping the business afloat throughout the pandemic.

Moving forward, Fanestil Meats is now constructing a new 40,000-square-foot meat-processing facility that will replace the original plant and help expand the worldwide reach of their beloved product, the Party Time Ham. The new facility is located adjacent to the cold storage warehouse, retail store, and administrative offices that were constructed in 2015 in Emporia, KS.

This award is truly an honor that everyone at Fanestil should be proud of. The Smoots have worked long and hard to expand and improve this business since they took over in 1997, which is no small task. Yet, thanks in part to the Smoots' ownership, Fanestil continues to rise to the occasion and prosper, even when faced with adversity. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dan and Jan Smoots for their dedication to their business and for representing Kansas greatly.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO JOHN JAMES LENEHAN, JR.

• Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize Mr. John James Lenehan, Jr., a remarkable man and Korean war veteran who graduates from college on May 21, 2022, at the age of 88.

The son of Irish immigrants, Mr. Lenehan was born on April 5, 1934. He was raised alongside his four siblings in a one-bedroom apartment in Queens. Upon graduating from high school, Mr. Lenehan was drafted into the U.S. Army, serving at Fort Dix. Thanks to the GI Bill, he was able to pursue his dream of higher education and enrolled at Fordham University. Mr. Lenehan took night classes while working at KLM Airlines, where he met his future wife, Lillian. When KLM transferred Mr. Lenehan to the Houston office, the couple moved to Texas the day after their wedding, and Mr. Lenehan had to pause his studies.

The Lenehan family lived in Wallingford, CT, for 6 years. While there, Mr. Lenehan began working for Xerox, where he quickly gained recognition for his determination. During this time, he took several classes at Sacred Heart University and Yale University, but never had a sufficient chance to complete his degree. He eventually retired in 1991, only to start a new company with his wife before long. Mr. Lenehan retired a second time, moving with Mrs. Lenehan to a cottage in the west of Ireland.

Last spring, Mr. Lenehan decided he wanted to make the time to obtain his college degree, so he wrote to the president of Fordham University, requesting the opportunity to finish his studies nearly 70 years after he began. The university accepted him, and this

month, Mr. Lenehan will achieve his dream of completing his undergraduate education. He will be Fordham University's oldest ever graduate when he receives his diploma on May 21, 2022.

Mr. Lenehan's lifelong commitment to pursuing his studies and supporting his family will be an enduring legacy. He and his wife instilled a love of learning in their children that they in turn have passed on to their own children. I now join his 6 children and 13 grandchildren in saluting Mr. Lenehan. I applaud his many accomplishments and hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating Mr. John Lenehan, Jr., on this milestone of his graduation.●

REMEMBERING ROBERT "BOB" EDGAR ROSE

• Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, today I recognize Robert "Bob" Edgar Rose, who passed away on February 14, 2022. Bob served as Nevada's 26th Lieutenant Governor and as chief justice of the Nevada Supreme Court. He will be greatly missed and always remembered for his invaluable contributions to the State of Nevada.

Bob grew up in Livingston, NJ. After law school, Bob moved to Nevada to clerk for the Nevada Supreme Court. He then went on to practice law in Reno before serving as chairman of the Nevada Democratic Party and as Washoe County district attorney. In 1974, he was elected Lieutenant Governor of Nevada. During his decades of service to the State of Nevada, Bob made a difference in every role in which he served.

As Lieutenant Governor, Bob worked to safeguard the rights of all Nevadans. He strongly advocated for the Equal Rights Amendment to ensure equality under the law for women. Despite political backlash at the time, Bob cast the deciding vote to send the amendment to the Nevada Assembly in 1977. Although Nevada did not ratify the amendment until 2017, Bob was recognized for his early leadership in this fight for equality. This important vote may have cost him the chance to be Governor, but Bob believed in doing what was right. Following Bob's term as Lieutenant Governor, Governor Richard Bryan appointed him to the Eighth Judicial District Court in Las Vegas.

In 1988, Bob achieved his lifelong dream of winning a seat on the Nevada Supreme Court. During his 18 years on the bench, he led efforts to modernize and improve Nevada's judicial system. Bob helped establish the Nevada Judicial Assessment Commission and the Jury Improvement Commission. Additionally, he pushed the court to mandate a statewide seminar on standardized practices for domestic violence cases. Nevada became the first State in the country to require such judicial training. In recognition of his many accomplishments and contributions, the Nevada Supreme Court awarded Bob the first Legacy of Justice Award in 2009.