

him up for "American Idol," the singer worried about making it past auditions, never imagining he would earn the "golden ticket" to Hollywood, let alone become a finalist.

But Arthur believed Noah had a special talent, and, after several arduous rounds, he emerged victorious after receiving the most votes out of 16 million cast by fans all across the country. In the process, he brought the "American Idol" camera crew back to Louisa to film a hometown video with community leaders, his family, and thousands of fans. He shined a light on eastern Kentucky, sharing the special culture and history that makes the region such a hotbed for musical talent.

Throughout the contest, Noah radiated humility and warmth. Labeled the "king of 'aw shucks'" by one of the judges, he entered every round of competition with the best of Kentucky's attitude and spirit. Even when Noah caught COVID-19 and had to isolate in his hotel room, he performed cheerfully and continued to win viewers' hearts.

I am proud of Noah for winning this contest and jumping headfirst into what I can only imagine will be a successful musical career. And I am proud of Louisa, KY, for producing such a fine young gentleman to represent the Commonwealth on the national stage. On behalf of the Senate, I share our congratulations with Noah and wish him the best as he pursues his dreams as a recording artist.

TRIBUTE TO CYNDY NOVOTNY

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I rise today to celebrate the retirement of Cyndy Novotny, principal of St. Anthony's Tri-Parish Catholic School in Casper, WY.

This summer, Cyndy Novotny marks her 17th and final year as principal at St. Anthony's School. The present St. Anthony's School building stands as a testament to her 45-year career in education. St. Anthony's Catholic School was dedicated on September 27, 1927, in the belief that education is one of the most important ways that the Catholic Church fulfills its commitment to God.

St. Anthony's School is dedicated to achieving academic excellence in a faith-filled community. Guided by strong religious and educational leadership, Casper students from preschool through eighth grade can learn to live enriched lives committed to Christian service.

Cyndy was instrumental in the design and fundraising for this classic, state-of-the-art building. The school is able to meet students' educational needs while keeping them connected to their faith. Her skills in fundraising also supported student tuition, making Christian education accessible for many families.

Cyndy grew up in the Chicago area, receiving her bachelor of science in elementary education from Illinois State University in 1977. After moving to

Casper, she taught at several schools, including first grade at Southridge Elementary for 7 years and second grade at Sagewood Elementary for another 7 years. While continuing to teach, she earned her master's degree in teaching from Grand Canyon University in 2001.

Cyndy was a leading light in the development of the groundbreaking innovative Woods Learning Center in Casper. Cyndy taught at Woods for 14 years before accepting the principal position at St. Anthony's Tri-Parish Catholic School.

Cyndy is an accomplished academician, educator, and public servant. She worked to enhance educational curriculum and administration as a speaker at the National School Board Annual Convention and International Reading Association Annual Conference. Cyndy is also a dedicated wife, mother, and grandmother. While teaching, she met her husband, Scott Novotny, a now-retired teacher from Natrona County High School. Together, they have three children, Mick Novotny with wife Dr. Ruma Novotny, Caitlin Dixon with husband Brian Dixon, and Connor Novotny. Cyndy and Scott also have five grandchildren: Ashwin, Colter, Aubrey, Austin, and Jackson.

Cyndy's community involvement is extensive, having been awarded the Natrona County School District Significant Educator three times and the Ellbogen Meritorious Education Award. She was nominated for Disney Teacher of the Year and was twice nominated for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

Children across Wyoming and the Nation benefited from her involvement with the National Education Association, National Center of Innovation Conference, Wyoming Reading Association, and Casper Reading Association.

Cyndy's accomplishments and contributions will continue to enrich the education of future generations of students. The community thanks Cyndy for her public service. We recognize her invaluable contribution to the St. Anthony's Tri-Parish Catholic School, Natrona County School District No. 1, and the development of educational curriculum across Wyoming. Cyndy is a pillar of the Casper community.

Cyndy's dedication to her faith is evident through her service as a eucharistic minister, Music Minister, and a member of the Parish Council at St. Patrick's Catholic Church. She exemplifies Christian values and the Code of the West, living each day with courage and taking pride in her work. Cyndy's joy in her work touched the lives of hundreds of children, including my own.

It is with great pleasure that I recognize this outstanding member of our Wyoming community. My wife Bobbi joins me in extending our best wishes to Cyndy Novotny upon her retirement.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WYOMING STOCK GROWERS ASSOCIATION

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I rise today to honor the 150th anniversary of the Wyoming Stock Growers Association. This organization is of incredible historical and influential importance for the State of Wyoming and agriculture everywhere.

From Wednesday, June 8, to Saturday, June 11, 2022, the Wyoming Stock Growers Association will host their annual Wyoming Cattle Industry Convention. They will celebrate their 150th anniversary with a rodeo, banquet, and parade. They will meet in Cheyenne, WY, where they can trace their beginnings back to 1872. There, a group of five cattlemen met in a livery stable to organize a group to tackle the growing threat of stock rustlers. Their organization, then known as the Stock Association of Laramie County, was only the second State cattlemen association in the United States. Wyoming, however, was not yet a State.

Over the years, members included mayors, State legislators, Governors, and congressmen. U.S. Senators Robert D. Carey, John B. Kendrick, and Cliff Hansen all served as presidents of the Wyoming Stock Growers Association. My colleague Senator CYNTHIA LUMMIS is an honorary life member.

Every Wyoming student knows of the infamous 1889–1893 Johnson County War involving the Wyoming Stock Growers Association. It required intervention by U.S. cavalry troops sent by President Benjamin Harrison. The conflict has been recounted by numerous personalities ranging from rodeo champion and singer/songwriter Chris LeDoux to the fictional Rooster Cogburn.

Today, you will find members promoting the beef industry through their Young Producers Assembly, Environmental Stewardship Program, Centennial Farm and Ranch Program, and the Endowment Trust.

Local input is essential to the services provided by the Wyoming Stock Growers. On any given week, you will find a county cattlemen group meeting together to bring their issues and priorities to the State association. The Stock Growers' auxiliary, the Cow-Belles, are integral members of their communities and are fantastic promoters of Wyoming's beef industry.

Regional education events bring valuable expertise to the raising of healthy cattle on healthy lands. Information is made widely available through their various publications. The association's staff does an incredible job of serving their membership through educating and promoting their trade to the public.

The Wyoming Stock Growers of 2022 have a remarkable leadership team. Executive director Jim Magagna has lead the association since 1998 and is Wyoming beef's greatest advocate. He is joined by Olivia Sanchez and Susan Skinner in their office in Cheyenne.

The board of directors includes president David Kane, first vice president Jack Berger, regional vice presidents Kahla Mills, Dan Frank, Leif Hanson, Brad Mead, Darla Griffin, and Young Producers Assembly president Sage Askin. These steadfast individuals wear many hats in their communities and around Wyoming. Their dedication will ensure a robust cattle industry in the state and a strong organization to support them well into the future.

The mission of the Wyoming Stock Growers is an important one to the character of the State. They advocate for the cattle industry and rural life. They develop policies to conserve and best manage the vast Wyoming landscape. They work with regulators at every facet of government. The Great Seal on every Wyoming flag and our State seal displays a rancher. This is the heritage of the stewards of the land who provide the Nation with quality products and food on their tables.

Cattlemen and their families created towns and built economies around the industry starting when Wyoming was still a territory. The tenacity and principles of these hard-working people are embodied through our Code of the West, the University of Wyoming's "Cowboys," and the work of the Wyoming Stock Growers. The theme of the Stock Growers centennial celebration in 1972 was "Guardian of the Grasslands." They continue to serve and conserve their industry and values in an ever-changing environment.

It is a great privilege to recognize this incredible organization and their dedication to the Wyoming's cattle and agriculture industry. Bobbi joins me in extending our congratulations and deep gratitude to the Wyoming Stock Growers Association on their 150th anniversary celebration.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO HERSHEL "WOODY" WILLIAMS

• Mr. DAINES. Madam President, today I have the honor of recognizing a true American hero, Hershel "Woody" Williams. Woody is a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps and recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor for his immense bravery during the Battle of Iwo Jima in World War II. Woody is also a former representative of the Veterans Administration and founder of the Hershel "Woody" Williams Medal of Honor Foundation.

Woody always had a desire to serve his country, and to this day, he continues that effort. His initial attempt to enlist in the U.S. Marine Corps, at just 17 years old, was derailed by his disapproving mother. The following year, he was again denied entry because he did not meet the height requirement. However, at the age of 19 and after the height requirement had been reduced, Woody finally was able to join the Marine Corps and begin a

journey that would not only bring honor to his family and friends, but to our entire Nation.

After training as a flame thrower operator, Woody was deployed to the Pacific where he fought in the Guadalcanal Campaign and in Guam. On February 21, 1945, he landed at Iwo Jima. With the support of just four marine gunners, Woody gallantly eliminated pillbox after pillbox, successfully reducing heavy machinegun fire to make way for our advancing troops. Even though the situation was beyond desperate, he continued on, knowing what needed to be done to win and to save the lives of his brothers. When the battle concluded, he had eliminated six enemy pillboxes.

That same day, U.S. forces heroically hoisted the American flag on top of Mount Suribachi. Woody's bravery was instrumental to the military success at Iwo Jima, and his bravery was acknowledged at the White House by President Harry Truman on October 5, 1945, with the Medal of Honor. In addition to those honors, an Armed Forces Center in Woody's hometown of Fairmont, WV, holds his name. The Hershel "Woody" Williams Armed Forces Reserves Center is the only National Guard facility in the country to bear the name of a living marine. Also honoring Woody is a Veterans of Foreign Wars post in Fairmont, WV, a bridge in Barboursville, WV, and an Expeditionary Sea Base Vessel.

Woody continued to serve his country well after the war, working for the Veterans Administration as a veteran service representative for 33 years out of offices in West Virginia and New Mexico, where he continued to serve his military family. After Woody retired in 1979, he continued to support veterans through the Hershel "Woody" Williams Medal of Honor Foundation. This foundation preserves the memory of the brave men lost at war, reminding us all of the price that must be paid for freedom. His effort to build Gold Star Family Memorials in all 50 States is also coming to a successful close, with the 50th memorial being unveiled in Bozeman, MT, on Memorial Day, 2022.

It is because of heroes like Woody, that America is known as the land of the free and the home of brave. I want to thank you, Mr. WILLIAMS, for your continued service to our great country and for displaying such tremendous courage, not only during times of war, but throughout your life.●

RECOGNIZING THE TRICENTEN- NIAL OF THE TOWN OF HAMP- TON FALLS, NEW HAMPSHIRE

• Ms. HASSAN. Madam President, I rise today to join Granite Staters in celebrating the 300th anniversary, as well as the rich history and vibrant present, of the Town of Hampton Falls, NH.

Originally a parish of the Town of Hampton, Hampton Falls later was es-

tablished as an independent town, gaining its name from the falls located on the surrounding river. The town's history is reflected in its rural roots; many of its early residents worked in the timber industry or on farms in the region, and it is home to one of the oldest working apple orchards in the country. And over the last 300 years, Hampton Falls has been home to prominent New Hampshire citizens, including the first Governor of New Hampshire and poet John Greenleaf Whittier.

The residents of Hampton Falls are also dedicated to preserving this history; the Hampton Falls Historical Society's motto is "Our future is a present from the past." Learning from our past and remembering our history is essential to a healthy democracy, and I applaud the Hampton Falls community for its commitment to its history.

Today with its 2,400 residents, Hampton Falls remains a small-town residential and agricultural community. From its small business community to the orchards and horse farms that reflect its agricultural beginnings, Hampton Falls is a vital part of New Hampshire's Seacoast.

While Hampton Falls has changed over the years, what has remained is the strong sense of community that makes New Hampshire a great place to live, work, visit, and raise a family.

I want to thank everyone involved in the tricentennial celebrations happening throughout Hampton Falls this year to help mark this milestone. I hope that the residents and visitors alike are able to enjoy the year's events and reflect upon Hampton Falls' abundant history and vibrant culture.●

RECOGNIZING DRUTHER'S RESTAURANT

• 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, Druther's Restaurant of Campbellsville, KY, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Steve McCarty, owner and operator of the last remaining Druther's restaurant in the world, understands the importance of commitment and passion when managing a business. His dad built the Campbellsville store in 1970, originally named Burger Queen before the company's rebrand to Druther's in 1980. It was an independent franchise fully owned by the McCarty family. Steve developed a love for the Druther's business at a young age, as he began working there at only 15 years old. At its peak of success, the Druther's franchise had around 200 locations spanning from Florida to Missouri, as well as international locations and a devoted consumer base. In light of financial woes burdening the