

other organizations. He taught at American University, was a guest lecturer at numerous colleges and universities, and was very involved in the governance of the Cosmos Club in Washington, DC, including as its president. He also authored and coauthored several published articles and books.

Mr. Franklin graduated from Harvard College and Harvard Law School. Originally from Milwaukee, WI, he started his legal career in his hometown before coming to Washington, DC, during the Kennedy administration as a lawyer in the Housing and Home Financing Agency. In 1965, he served as the director of the Business and Development Center for Urban America, Inc. before becoming the first development administrator for the city of Middletown, CT. He couldn't stay away from his beloved Washington, DC, for long, though, returning in 1968 to serve in a leadership role for the National Urban Coalition, where he staffed a national task force on urban revitalization.

In 1973, Mr. Franklin became a founding partner in the law firm of Lane and Edson, P.C. in Washington, DC, specializing in real estate finance and development. He was in private practice until joining the office of the Architect of the Capitol in 1989.

I extend my condolences to Mr. Franklin's wife of 61 years, Barbara Braemer Franklin; daughter Marcia; son and daughter-in-law Jonathan and Sharon; son David; grandchildren Stephanie, Noah, Sophia, Norah and Sarah; and other family and friends. Thank you for sharing Mr. Franklin with us and our extraordinary seat of government he loved so much. We are all, no doubt, bettered by the respect, intellect and calm he put into the measured problem-solving that typified his service to our country.

TRIBUTE TO LESTER CASH

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, as chair of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, I would like to recognize an exceptional public servant deeply committed to protecting and improving the health of the American people, Mr. Lester Cash. Mr. Cash retired recently after a distinguished 37-year career in the civil service, most of it spent at the Office of Management and Budget and the Department of Health and Human Services. It is at HHS, where he was the Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary for Budget since 2007, that I and my staff came to depend upon Mr. Cash's expertise, wisdom, and judgement.

Mr. Cash is one of those unsung public servants whose analysis and insights are relied upon equally by Democrats and Republicans in both Chambers. He epitomizes the best of the professional civil service: dedicated, credible and trusted by all who work with him. His unique skills, starting with advanced degrees in pub-

lic policy, philosophy, and theology, have given Mr. Cash a perspective that is both broad and sufficiently deep. His judgement on appropriations legal matters and insight on legislative language was always sound, and his ready responsiveness at any hour made him the vital go-to person for the committees when time was tight. Whenever there was a complex question that needs solving, he was the person to call, whether it was for funding to respond to a natural disaster, meeting our obligations to our September 11 first responders, or ensuring that unaccompanied migrant children are treated humanely. Most recently, during the pandemic, Mr. Cash was instrumental to removing obstacles to secure COVID-19 tests, vaccines, and therapeutics for communities across the country. It is not an exaggeration to say that millions of Americans have been directly affected by his efforts and that his commitment saved lives.

We are all better off because of Lester. His unyielding dedication and institutional knowledge made him truly indispensable, and his absence will be a loss for all of us who depend upon him. I am glad that he will have more time to spend with his wife and son, Ada and Brian, friends and family. He certainly deserves it, and I wish him the best of luck in the future.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT JONATHAN KOKOT

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, today I honor an exceptional member of the U.S. Navy, LT Jonathan Kokot. I am proud to enter this tribute into the RECORD as I have had the pleasure of traveling overseas with Jon on multiple occasions, allowing me to see his professionalism, leadership, and dedication to duty firsthand.

Lieutenant Kokot has distinguished himself through his professional character and dedication to serving this Nation in uniform. He has continued to excel in peerless service to our country while assigned to the Navy Senate Liaison Office. A native of Houston, TX, Jon is a 2013 graduate of Vanderbilt University and was commissioned through the Naval ROTC program. He completed primary flight school at VT-27 in Corpus Christi, TX, followed by advanced flight training at HT-28 in Milton, FL.

Lieutenant Kokot joined the Battlecats of Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron Seven Three (HSM) 73 in April, 2016. He deployed to the Western Pacific onboard USS *Sampson* (DDG 102), an Arleigh Burke class guided-missile destroyer, in September 2016 in support of the Oceania Maritime Security Initiative (OMSI) and received a Humanitarian Service Medal for his part in disaster relief following an earthquake in New Zealand. On Jon's second deployment, his helicopter squadron was embarked on USS *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN 71), and later USS *Halsey* (DDG 97), for a deployment to

the CENTCOM and INDOPACOM areas of responsibility.

Lieutenant Kokot has also been published in "Rotor Review" magazine. His article, "Deployment: A Junior Officer's Perspective," was recognized as the article of the year in 2018. That article discussed the "beauty" of flight deck operations on a modern aircraft carrier, writing: "one only has to watch the flight deck during launch and recovery of jets to realize there's a half-century worth of training involved in each evolution. The movement of six different types of aircraft, including fixed-wing and helicopters, transformed from parked and folded to engines full blast within minutes, is mind-boggling. Five-thousand people aboard this floating fortress work around-the-clock to make this dance happen, and each member plays his or her role in a system of cogs which drives the most powerful peace machine on the planet."

Lieutenant Kokot also models a commitment to volunteering. During his time in the Senate, he served additionally as a White House social aide, supporting more than 30 high-visibility events. He also served as a mentor and role model for disadvantaged youth who need a helping hand. While in flight training in Corpus Christi, Jon cofounded a mentorship program at Flour Bluff High School and personally provided 10 hours of mentoring per week to students in need. He continued this worthy effort with his involvement in the Big Brothers Big Sisters program, beginning with his first fleet assignment in San Diego and again these last 2 years here in Washington, DC. He regularly spent a dozen hours each month with his young mentee. Jon's interest and empathy for underprivileged youth reflects the influence of his mother, who mentored middle and high school youth for over a dozen years in Houston.

As a legislative liaison in the Navy Senate Liaison Office from February 2019 to February 2022, Lieutenant Kokot performed his duties with distinction, supporting the 116th and 117th U.S. Congresses. Jon's direct assistance provided critical information necessary for the passage of three National Defense Authorization Acts in the U.S. Senate, as well as peace of mind for members concerned about the welfare of our constituents. His efforts also helped ensure the confirmation of the 77th and 78th Navy Secretaries and the 32nd Chief of Naval Operations.

Lieutenant Kokot led 28 congressional delegations across the United States and the globe. He has escorted many Members of this Chamber on travel, as well the personal and professional staff who work in this Chamber. I have had the pleasure of traveling with Jon on a number of these trips. He has gone above and beyond the call of duty to facilitate and successfully execute each trip, despite any weather, aircraft, or diplomatic complications. He consistently performs his duties selflessly, and with a smile.

After 3 years of serving in this vital role, during which he became a very popular fixture on Capitol Hill, Lieutenant Kokot will return to sea duty in USS *Tripoli* (LPH 10), the Navy's newest America class amphibious assault ship homeported in San Diego, CA. *Tripoli* was built in Pascagoula, MS, and is the third ship to bear the name of the first U.S. battle fought on foreign soil. This Chamber will keenly feel Lieutenant Kokot's absence. A substantial debt is owed to Jon's parents, Ronald and Pamela Kokot, for the parenting and love that produced this outstanding young leader. Regrettably, Jon's mother passed away when he was 22, but I know that she watches over her son with the same pride that is felt by many Members of Congress. I am grateful for LT Jonathan Kokot's service and his work with my office and the Senate, and I salute him. May he always have "fair winds and following seas."

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING KAREN FERGUSON

• Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of a lifelong champion for American workers across the country, the founder and longtime president of the Pension Rights Center, Karen Ferguson.

Karen came to Washington, DC, in the early 1970s to work with Ralph Nader as a public interest lawyer, fighting for consumers and workers against unchecked corporate power. As one of "Nader's Raiders," she found her calling. Recognizing the void of public advocacy for retirees and pensioners, Karen founded the Pension Rights Center in 1976. This marked the beginning of a crusade that lasted more than four decades, on behalf of pensioners who so often did not have much of a voice in their own government. Over the next 45 years, Karen personally assisted thousands of workers who were denied the retirement benefits they earned, and she advocated for retirement security for millions more.

As one of our country's leading experts on pension law and a passionate advocate for workers and their families, Karen was a source of strength and guidance to her allies in Congress for decades. She was instrumental to the passage of a number of reforms that improved the cause of retirement security, including the Retirement Equity Act of 1984, a critical law that provided benefits to millions of widows and divorced women.

Most recently, Karen was a leader in the fight to protect and restore multi-employer pension benefits for millions of union members across the country, including 100,000 Ohioans. She worked directly with my office to help draft the Butch Lewis Act and fought for years alongside Mr. Lewis, his widow and leader in her own right, Rita

Lewis, and other workers, families, and small businesses, for its passage. Because of their advocacy, we were finally able to pass the Butch Lewis Emergency Pension Plan Relief Act into law as part of the American Rescue Plan in 2021. We were successful in no small part due to the unwavering support she provided. Now, more than a million Americans who have worked hard all their lives and gave up raises at the bargaining table in order to put that money toward retirement are no longer at risk of losing the benefits they earned. And many American businesses—often small, family-owned businesses—will be able to continue to support their workers and grow and create more good, union jobs.

Karen Ferguson will be remembered for a lifetime of service on behalf of workers and their families, and the compassion and skill she brought to our efforts. Her legacy will continue through the millions of past, current, and future workers and their families who will have a more secure retirement thanks to her work.●

TRIBUTE TO TONY COLTER

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today I have the distinct honor of recognizing Tony Colter of Powell County as Montanan of the Month for his many years of leadership in resolving forestry and timber issues and his dedication to making Montana a better place to live for all Montanans.

Tony is a founding member of the Beaverhead-Deerlodge Working Group, which was formed in 2011. The group brings Montanans with diverse interests together to collaborate with Forest Service staff and community members to promote collaboration and transparency when solving forest-level issues in the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest.

Tony's leadership and passion for the Working Group has impacted the lives of many of his fellow Montanans. He has been instrumental in helping develop science-based restoration strategies, forging diverse partnerships, and improving Forest Service projects through collaborative approaches and recommendations.

Fellow members of the Working Group say that Tony cares deeply about the group's vision for the Forest, and his passion and charisma made him a valuable leader and representative for the Working Group. They say that learning from and working alongside Tony was an honor.

Tony also worked for many years at Sun Mountain Lumber in Deer Lodge. His former coworkers, friends, and colleagues all agree that his efforts have made a lasting impact. Bryan Lorengo with the Montana Logging Association said, "The one thing that sticks out about Tony is his calm demeanor and willingness to listen first while respecting people's opinions and views even though they might be opposite of his own."●

It is my honor to recognize Tony for his leadership and commitment to bettering the Forest and serving his community. Through his passion for advancing the Working Group's mission for and dedication to solving forest-related issues, I have no doubt that Tony's hard work has made the great State of Montana a better place to live.

Congratulations on your retirement, Tony. You make Montana proud.●

REMEMBERING VICE ADMIRAL PAUL FOSTER

• Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize VADM Paul Frederick Foster, USN, of Wichita, KS, on the 50th anniversary of his passing. Foster was the first Naval Officer to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor. Moreover, he earned the Navy Cross, the Distinguished Service Award, and Navy Merit Commendation. VADM Paul Frederick Foster was a true American hero.

Paul Foster was in Wichita, KS, in 1889. He was the son of a traveling minister and thus grew up in Kansas, Utah, Oklahoma, and finally Idaho. There, he would attend the University of Idaho for 1 year before earning an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD, from Senator Fred Dubois of Idaho in 1907. In June 1911, Foster exited the Naval Academy as a passed midshipman with a bachelor of science. He was commissioned as ensign in July 1911. After graduation he would be attached to the USS *Washington*, but by December was quickly transferred to the USS *Utah*, a battleship in the Atlantic Fleet.

In the beginning of 1914, the United States chose to intercede in the Mexican Revolution. While on its way to Mexico, the USS *Utah* was instructed to intercept a German ship carrying arms intended for the Mexican dictator Victoriano Huerta. The German ship arrived in Veracruz before the *Utah*, which resulted in the American occupation of the city. During the fighting on April 21 and 22, Foster led his company ashore. For distinguished conduct in battle, he was awarded the Medal of Honor.

Paul Frederick Foster would go on to serve as commanding officer of multiple submarines during World War I. During his service a submariner, he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant commander and was decorated with the Navy Distinguished Service Medal for the sinking enemy submarine. At the outset of U.S. involvement in World War II, Foster was called for Active Duty at the rank of commander. He was tasked with naval inspections. The highest rank he would achieve was vice admiral at the time of his second retirement from the Navy. After the war, Paul Frederick Foster was appointed to the Atomic Energy Commission in Vienna, Austria, by President Eisenhower.

It is my honor to commemorate VADM Paul Frederick Foster for his