

oneself that allows a person to overcome obstacles with courage and tenacity." It is a remarkable distinction.

Each year, a bronze sculpture crafted by acclaimed artist Chris Navarro is given to the Try Award honoree. The sculpture is titled "Cowboy Code" and depicts a cowboy on his horse, with the phrases, "Always Finish What You Start" and "Protect and Help The Weak".

Brad Hopkins has served as executive director of the Wyoming Rescue Mission since 2012. Born in Dallas, TX, Brad is an ordained minister and earned his master of theology from the Dallas Theological Seminary. He completed postgraduate studies at the University of Wisconsin and the University of Colorado-Denver.

While in Colorado, Brad was a contributor to Denver's Road Home, the Denver Commission to End Homelessness, and the Denver Mayor's Clergy Council. He served as an advisor to the Colorado Governor's Interagency Council on Homelessness.

Brad was a founding board member of the Wyoming Governor's Homeless Collaborative. He is also a member of the Casper Homeless Collaborative and a board member for the Emergency Food and Shelter Program.

Brad's spiritual leadership is as strong as his organizational leadership. Under his direction, the Wyoming Rescue Mission raised funds to triple their space to allow adequate housing for their guests. Brad and the mission oversee the restoration work of 2,500 homeless individuals and families. They serve 70,000 hot meals and 42,000 nights of stay each year. Under Brad's leadership, the mission opened two thrift stores, which provide revenue and job placement opportunities for their guests.

Participants in their Discipleship Recovery Program progress through a yearlong, Bible-based, addiction recovery model. This program offers them an opportunity to transition to independent living as healthy, productive men and women. Their program advancement and graduation ceremonies are an inspirational experience.

Brad's passion and compassion for those less fortunate comes from a shared experience with vulnerability. He described an early failed career move that left him and his wife homeless for a time. Consistently an example of the "Try" mentality, he continues to give his time and talents to help others. He and his wife Christine have been married for 29 years. They have lived in Casper since 2012.

Brad, like the Try Award's namesakes Mick and Susie McMurtry, epitomizes the Code of the West. The Cowboy Code teaches us to live each day with courage and to take pride in our work. Brad's dedication and spiritual guidance empower others to find their own courage, leading them to a more fulfilled and productive life. Casper and Wyoming are fortunate to have him as a member of our community.

It is with great honor that I recognize this outstanding member of our Wyoming family. My wife, Bobbi, joins me in extending our congratulations to Brad Hopkins upon his selection for this special award.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE C. EDWARDS

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate my dear friend State Senator George C. Edwards, who is retiring from the Maryland General Assembly at the end of this year, and to thank him for a half-century of principled and productive public service to the people of Maryland, especially his constituents in what we call Mountain Maryland: Garrett, Allegany, and Washington Counties.

George was born in Grantsville, MD, and graduated from Northern Garrett High School in Accident, MD. He received his bachelor of science in business administration, cum laude, from Fairmont State College in West Virginia in 1970. He was the starting fullback on the football team there and earned National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics All-American honors. Despite playing at a small school, he was good enough that the Baltimore Colts drafted him. George wanted to be a teacher, however, and later attended what was then Frostburg State College to receive his teacher's certificate so he could teach social studies at his old high school.

I met George when he won his first election to the Maryland House of Delegates in 1982, where I was serving as speaker of the house. Even though he was only 33, he was already a seasoned elected official with a decade of experience on the Grantsville Town Council and the Garrett County Board of County Commissioners. He also served in the National Guard for 6 years after he graduated from college.

George served with distinction in the house of delegates for 24 years, finishing his tenure there as minority leader from 2003 to 2007, when he won election to the State senate, where he has served for the past 16 years. George won 4 of his 10 elections to the general assembly with 100 percent of the vote and another 3 with 98 percent or more of the vote. He and Delegate Sandy Rosenberg are the deans of the Maryland General Assembly; each of them started their service in 1983.

George delivered a farewell address to the State senate that reflects the type of person he is, a statement filled with self-deprecating wit, congeniality, and a gentleness too rare in politics. He said that his first task in Annapolis was to educate his fellow lawmakers that Allegany County isn't spelled with an H, that Maryland's longest border is with West Virginia, and that western Marylanders speak in a particularly folksy way. "You speak slow and you m-m-m mumble a little bit," he said.

He also noted that when he joined the general assembly, there were only 13 Republicans serving in the house of delegates and 7 in the State senate. "I can count," he said he remembered thinking. "I said, hmm, I need to make some friends. And I need to make some friends on [the Democratic] side of the aisle. And I think I've done that." George certainly has made friends on the Democratic side of the aisle, and I am proud to be one of them.

In an op-ed in the New York Times several years ago, Michael Ignatieff wrote:

For democracies to work, politicians need to respect the difference between an enemy and an adversary.

An adversary is someone you want to defeat. An enemy is someone you have to destroy. With adversaries, compromise is honorable: Today's adversary could be tomorrow's ally. With enemies, on the other hand, compromise is appeasement.

Between adversaries, trust is possible. They will beat you if they can, but they will accept the verdict of a fair fight. This, and a willingness to play by the rules, is what good-faith democracy demands.

George understands this crucial distinction between adversary and enemy and has acted according to this principle throughout his entire career, which is why even his adversaries are his friends. It is why he has served as cochair of the general assembly's joint committee on legislative ethics, making him the only Republican in leadership in the legislature. It is why he has been such an effective representative for his constituents in western Maryland. It has been a challenge because, as George has noted, "A lot of people where I live don't think people in other parts of Maryland think we're in Maryland." As Maryland State Senate President Bill Ferguson said, George has "made sure every senator understood the needs of his district and always approached negotiations from a standpoint of getting to a resolution, not to obstruct." Senate Majority Leader Nancy J. King, a former chair of the budget and taxation committee, summed it up when she said, "You can't say no to George because he's such a nice guy."

In 1946, Brooklyn Dodgers manager Leo Durocher famously quipped, "Nice guys finish last." Durocher never met George, who has always come in first by putting his constituents first. Being nice is not the same as being obsequious. George is a true conservative, a rarity in today's politics. He and I have different points of view on some major issues like gun safety and government regulation, but that has never stopped us from working as a team on behalf of his and my constituents.

We have worked together to support and expand Federal-State partnerships such as the Appalachian Regional Commission, the Economic Development Administration, Community Development Block Grants, and the Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Program. We have worked together to secure funding from Maryland and Pennsylvania and the Federal

Government to complete the North-South Appalachian Highway initiative connecting I-68 to the Pennsylvania Turnpike via US-219. We have worked together to expand rural healthcare access and opportunities through federally qualified community health centers, regional hospitals, and other Federal partnerships in the region. We have worked together to support higher education and workforce development programs through Frostburg State University, the Western Maryland Consortium, and the region's three community colleges.

We have collaborated to provide State and Federal grant training for local emergency management and first responders to ensure they have the resources they need to protect their communities. We have collaborated to ensure that small businesses have access to State and Federal resources to grow their businesses. We have collaborated on casework for our constituents with State and Federal agencies related to healthcare, veterans' benefits, housing, banking and taxes, passports, and other issues.

George's legislative accomplishments are too numerous to list, so I will mention just a few. He fought to alter a State revenue formula to provide additional funding to counties, such as Garrett and Allegany, where the State owns 15 percent or more of the land. He secured changes to Maryland's Program Open Space, a land acquisition and recreation program, to give Garrett and Allegany Counties the flexibility they need to use the program without impeding economic development. He increased Allegany County's share of revenue from the Rocky Gap Casino Resort and increased the county's flexibility with respect to how it can spend that revenue. He succeeded in increasing the speed limit on parts of I-68 to 70 miles per hour, which is understandable considering that his Senate district—district 1—stretches 125 miles from Red House at the far western end of the State to Williamsport in Washington County. Earlier this year, Governor Hogan signed into law a bill George sponsored to establish the Western Maryland Economic Future Investment Board and Senator George C. Edwards Fund to provide \$50 million over the next 3 years in State grants and loans for capital infrastructure and business development projects in the region. Of course, George is far too modest to suggest naming something after himself; his colleagues voted unanimously to amend the bill to be named in his honor.

When George announced his retirement, he noted that he had spent the equivalent of 10 years in Annapolis, away from his family. So I would be remiss if I failed to mention Linda, his beloved wife of 55 years, and their two children, Kristin and Paul. Paul has followed in his father's footsteps and serves as chair of the Garrett County Board of County Commissioners. All Marylanders, but especially his district

1 constituents, owe a debt of gratitude to his family for sharing him with the public. He and Linda are the proud grandparents of eight children, and I certainly understand his desire, after half a century of public service, to spend more time with his family.

In Shakespeare's play "Hamlet," Polonius counsels his son Laertes, "This above all: to thine own self be true, And it must follow, as the night the day, Thou canst not then be false to any man." This describes George Edwards and his life of public service. He has been true to himself and never false to his colleagues or to his constituents. I am honored to count George as a friend and want, on behalf of the entire U.S. Senate, to extend my congratulations and deepest appreciation to him and wish him and Linda and their family all the best as he returns home to Mountain Maryland.●

TRIBUTE TO DEBORAH CROSS

● Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I am honored to recognize Deborah Cross of Manchester as July's Granite Stater of the Month. After surviving stage 4 cancer, Deborah used her artistic talents to create photo journals to help other cancer patients process their emotions and find resilience.

After recovering from endometrial cancer in 2014 and living cancer-free for almost 4 years, Deborah received awful news from her doctor. Her cancer had come back. While Deborah was devastated by the news, she also found solace in a creative outlet that would also help others.

Deborah began creating booklets with strikingly edited photos of nature in New Hampshire, for example, images of seagulls and ocean sunsets around the New England coast. Below the photos are blank lines where cancer patients can journal. Deborah hopes that the photos can evoke deeper emotions that patients might be struggling with in a time of intense personal hardship. In addition, some of the proceeds from the sales go to the North of Boston Cancer Resource.

Deborah exemplifies the Granite State spirit of giving back to others and bringing people together even during challenging times. She took an immensely difficult experience—battling with stage 4 cancer—and found her way through it by creating art that would touch others. I commend her for her work and know that her story will inspire others to make a difference in their communities.●

TRIBUTE TO EVAN CROTTY

● Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I am honored to recognize Evan Crotty of Wilton as August's Granite Stater of the Month. Twelve-year-old Evan is cleaning up every street in his town over the next year, and the money he is raising through the initiative will go to his middle school's music department.

When it came time for Evan to choose a bar mitzvah project, he knew he wanted to start a community clean-up because of his deep appreciation of nature. Last summer as a Boy Scout, Evan hiked 75 miles and learned about how to preserve nature, leaving no trace behind on trails. In addition, Evan had done many community clean-ups before with his family, and he was excited to expand those efforts into a yearlong project.

Teaming up with a community cleanup expert, Evan launched his project, beginning the process of going street by street in Wilton and removing the plastic bags, cans, and trash that litter the area. Already a couple of weeks into the project, Evan has felt the support from neighbors passing by who have given him a supportive honk from their cars or thanked him for his work.

As part of the project, Evan is also fundraising online and donating the proceeds to his middle school's music department. After performing in Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative Middle High School's production of "Matilda," Evan knew he wanted to support his theater department so that other students could have the positive experience that he had by participating in a show.

Evan hopes that when neighbors drive by and see him removing trash and other litter, they will be inspired to also care for the natural spaces around them. In addition, it is a testament to Evan's passionate spirit that he is also fundraising for the arts through his cleanup project. I am grateful to Evan for his work and for inspiring Granite Staters to each take steps to better their own communities. He represents the very best of our Granite State spirit, taking the initiative to make a difference.●

150TH BIRTHDAY OF HUTCHINSON, KANSAS

● Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate the 150th birthday of the city of Hutchinson, KS.

In 1871, Clinton Carter "CC" Hutchinson got the Atchison Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad to route through what is now Reno County and Hutchinson, KS. Upon the arrival of the railroad, Hutchinson was incorporated as a city in August 1872. At first, the city was a rail town, using the railroads to help advance the local area's ranching and farming operations. Upon the discovery of salt, Hutchinson developed into a mining town as well, quickly earning the moniker of the "Salt City."

Since its incorporation 150 years ago, Hutchinson has grown into an industrial hub for central Kansas. From Carey Salt and the Cosmosphere, to Dillons Grocery and the State fair, Hutchinson and its citizens play an integral role in telling the story of Kansas. Thanks to investments of both time and money by community members, Hutchinson remains a vibrant