

of pneumonia in Archangel, Russia, on September 15, 1918. He was buried in the American cemetery in the town until his body was able to be removed and returned to Missoula in 1929.

While Private Shaughnessy was finally laid to rest in his native land, he never received the proper military headstone he deserved and earned.

It is my honor to say today, 104 years after his passing, Private Shaughnessy will at last receive his long-overdue military headstone in Missoula.

While our debt of gratitude to him can never be fully repaid, this military honor rightly ensures his sacrifices in service to our Nation will never be forgotten.

He is an American hero who has made Montana proud, and our country would not be what it is today without him and others in uniform who put their life on the line in return for our freedoms.

On behalf of myself and a grateful nation, I extend our deepest appreciation to him and his family.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING BURTON “BURT” ALBERT

• Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, I rise today to recognize Mr. Burton “Burt” Albert, a Connecticut native and remarkable man. Sadly, Mr. Albert passed away in 2019, at the age of 86. He will be remembered for his tireless commitment to community service and his deep devotion to his wonderful family.

Born in Waterbury, Burt spent much of his life in Connecticut, attending Cheshire Academy and Amherst College, where he graduated with a bachelor of arts in 1954. A member of the ROTC program, Mr. Albert went on to serve for 2 years as an intelligence officer in the U.S. Air Force. Burt remained proud of his time in the military, and I applaud his strong sense of patriotism and record of military service.

It was also in the Air Force where Mr. Albert met the love of his life, Sylvia Meisel, who would become his wife of 61 years. They would go on to build a wonderful family together, having three children—Eric, Jonathan, and Debbie—and many grandchildren they adored. Mr. Albert was a remarkable family man and cherished time with his loved ones above all else.

Mr. Albert returned to Connecticut to work in his family’s scrap metal recycling business. Burt became the third generation of Alberts to lead Albert Bros. Inc., a company that recently celebrated 125 years of outstanding industry in the State of Connecticut. I have visited Albert Bros. and seen firsthand the amazing new methods for turning waste material into a useful new resource. The company is an integral part of Waterbury commerce.

Under Mr. Albert’s leadership, Albert Bros. grew substantially, and he was respected by employees and customers alike. Amid all his success, working with his sons and grandson in the family business was one of the highlights of Mr. Albert’s professional career.

Mr. Albert devoted much of his time to serving the Waterbury community, bringing his tremendous leadership skills to many organizations including St. Mary’s Hospital, the Jewish Federation of Western Connecticut, the Harold Leever Cancer Center, and the Connecticut Community Foundation. Mr. Albert was also very active in the United Way of Greater Waterbury and B’nai Israel Synagogue. In these endeavors, Burt generously gave so much of his time and resources to helping others.

Burton Albert leaves behind a remarkable legacy of service—to our country, the State of Connecticut, and his community. But he will be remembered most by his loving family as an extraordinary husband, father, and grandfather. Burt’s sense of humor, passion for learning, and conviction in his beliefs are models for all of us. I hope my colleagues will join me in celebrating the life of Mr. Burton Albert.●

REMEMBERING JUDGE GREG RAY

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam President, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Sevier County Judge Greg Ray, who passed away on August 30, 2022, at the age of 61.

Judge Ray was a beloved member of his community and a fearless advocate for his constituents about whom he cared deeply. Those who had the chance to work with him remember his sense of humor, determination, and kindness.

Since 2010, Judge Ray served as a county leader and was intimately involved in a number of county and State organizations, including the County Judges Association of Arkansas—CJAA—where he served as first vice president and developed close relationships with county judges across the State. CJAA Chief Legal Counsel Mark Whitmore reflected that Judge Ray “was a dear friend, full of life and always had a big smile and happy disposition. He was a pillar of the CJAA and a leader in his community.”

Judge Ray was an instrumental figure in establishing the new Sevier County Medical Center, which is set to open at the end of this year. At the ground-breaking ceremony, he praised the residents of Sevier County for the high voter turnout in support of the new medical facility. “The citizens didn’t just show up. They showed out,” he said.

Thanks to his leadership and advocacy, the new hospital will bring much needed assistance to the people of rural southwest Arkansas, a legacy his loved ones and the citizens he served will be proud to reflect and carry on for years to come.

Outside of his role as county judge, he enjoyed fishing and served as a key organizer for the Sevier County Chamber of Commerce’s annual Tri-Lakes Big Bass Festival. He also hosted the annual Senior Citizens Day celebration on the Sevier County Courthouse Square.

I join Judge Greg Ray’s family, friends, and all Arkansans in mourning his passing. He set a worthy example for his hard-working staff and county judges across the State to emulate, and the people of Arkansas are grateful for his dedication to better our lives and communities.●

TRIBUTE TO J. DAVID BAILEY

• Mrs. CAPITO. Madam President, I rise today to celebrate the achievements of a West Virginian who triumphantly fought for our country during World War II. J. David Bailey, who was recently awarded the highest French recognition—the Legion of Honor—is one of the oldest surviving veterans of the Battle of the Bulge. His story is an extraordinary example of the American philosophy to fight for freedom around the world.

David was born in Bluefield, WV, on January 3, 1922. At the age of 21, he, like 16 million other Americans, answered the call to fight against tyranny. He became a dedicated member of the battalion of the U.S. Army’s 422nd Regiment, 106th Infantry Division.

On December 16, 1944, at the beginning of the Battle of the Bulge, the bloodiest and largest battle of World War II, David and his entire battalion were imprisoned by German troops east of St. Vith, Belgium. Ultimately, he escaped imprisonment to rejoin his fellow soldiers and went on to serve in other campaigns, including northern France and the Army of Occupation. He was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army on November 24, 1945.

In recognition of his honorable service to our country, David has received the Combat Infantry Badge, two Bronze Stars, four Battle Stars, and four service ribbons, as well as the Order of St. Maurice Medallion from the National Infantry Association. He also appeared on the cover of a victory edition of the military publication “Stars and Stripes.”

David has also been a key figure in preserving the history of World War II throughout the years. At one point, he served as the national president of the Battle of the Bulge Association. On January 25, 2022, at the age of 100, David was one of several veterans to lay the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at the Arlington National Cemetery to commemorate the end of the Battle of the Bulge. He also attended the opening ceremonies of the World War II Memorial, the 70th anniversary of V-E Day in 2015, and he was also the personal guest of President Barack Obama at the White House for the Veterans Day ceremony in 2011.

J. David Bailey's life has been dedicated to the service of our country, and the impact that he has had will be remembered for years to come. I am proud to call him a fellow West Virginian.●

TRIBUTE TO BENJAMIN PORTARO

● Mrs. CAPITO. Madam President, I rise today to honor decorated West Virginian Benjamin Portaro. Mr. Portaro recently received the French Legion of Honor for his service in France during World War II.

Born in a small village in Italy, Mr. Portaro's family immigrated to the United States searching for the American dream. Mr. Portaro's father, Pete, found work in the coal mines in Anmoore, WV, where the family would settle down. The Portaros prospered in Anmoore, where young Ben began school and helped his parents learn English.

As a young man, Benjamin Portaro began work as a construction contractor, working for a local carbon plant in Anmoore. In 1943 Mr. Portaro entered the Army and was sent to Europe where he would fight on the frontlines in France. Promoted to staff sergeant under General George Patton, Mr. Portaro was sent to the Battle of the Bulge.

It was during the Germans' last major offensive that Mr. Portaro was wounded and captured by the Nazis. Taken as a prisoner of war, Mr. Portaro was forced to march for miles in the dead of the winter, as many of his fellow prisoners starved to death. Months later, Mr. Portaro and another prisoner decided their best chance at survival would be trying to escape. After dark, they hid in ditches until they could run away from their captors. After 3 days, Portaro and his friend were rescued by the American Army. At this point, Mr. Portaro weighed a mere 100 pounds. After being rescued, Benjamin was transported to a hospital for treatment and eventually made it back home to Anmoore, where he would spend his life working for and with veterans and prisoners of war.

Mr. Portaro has received many medals for his service, including the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, the Prisoners of War medal, WWII Honorable Discharge, American Campaign, Yankee Division badge, WWII Victory Medal, European Campaign, Army Good Conduct Medal, Combat Infantry Badge, and Staff Sergeant Badge.

Mr. Portaro and his wife Claire had 7 children, 14 grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren. After 69 happy years, Claire passed away in 2011. Ben continues to live in West Virginia and is an inspiring voice and story to all.

Mr. Portaro's story is one of sacrifice, hope, and courage. He is a proud West Virginian and a great representative of our State. I am proud to represent Mr. Portaro and thrilled that, after so many years, he still calls West Virginia home.●

RECOGNIZING THE IDAHO HOMETOWN HERO AWARDS

● Mr. CRAPO. Madam President, I honor the Idaho Hometown Hero Awards for highlighting the spirit of philanthropy in communities across our great State of Idaho. The award pays tribute to commitment to improving communities across Idaho, while continuing to preserve and promote the richness of our State and create a better world for all of us in the future.

Doctors Fahim and Naeem Rahim, of Pocatello, ID, established the Idaho Hometown Hero medal in 2011 to spotlight Idahoans who are extraordinarily dedicated to hard work, self-improvement, and community service. The Hometown Hero Award's mission statement focuses on recognizing those who:

"Exemplify a life dedicated to the Idaho way of hard work, self-improvement, and community service. Embody the spirit of philanthropy while showing remarkable commitment in both their personal and professional lives to improving communities across the State of Idaho.

Preserve, celebrate, and promote the richness of history, tradition, and values of our great state while working to create a better world for all of us in the future by the work they do today.

Share gifts with the community to boost recognition of the great State of Idaho."

The Hometown Hero Medal highlights that Idaho is an incredible place, but it is the people of Idaho who make it a great State. I could not agree more. Thank you to the Rahims, the award's committee members, the volunteers, and other organizations for drawing attention to good works in our communities.●

TRIBUTE TO BOB FEE

● Mr. MORAN. Madam President, I rise today to recognize my good friend Mr. Bob Fee as he nears the end of his term as the 116th chairman of the Nation's largest insurance association, the Independent Insurance Agents and Brokers of America—IIABA—also known as the Big "I." He was installed as chairman of the Big "I" in September 2021 in Kansas City. Over the past year, he has done a remarkable job leading the association as a strong and thoughtful leader for independent insurance agents and small businesses across the country.

Bob is a graduate of the University of Kansas and the USF&G School of Insurance in Baltimore, MD. He is currently the president of Fee Insurance Group in Hutchinson, KS. He joined his family's agency in 1987, continuing a long family tradition of serving the community. The Fee Insurance Group can trace its roots back to 1883 in its hometown of Hutchinson and now has four locations throughout the State.

At the national association level, Bob has been a member of the Big "I" government affairs committee and the Trusted Choice board of directors, including a term as the Trusted Choice board chairman. He received the Big

"I" Chairman's Citation in 2011. At the State association level, Bob served on the Kansas Association of Insurance Agents—KAIA—board of directors and as the Kansas director on the national association board. He has also served on several KAIA committees, including the government affairs committee, and was the 2007–2008 KAIA president.

As chairman of the Big "I," Bob has represented his country, his industry, and the great State of Kansas with distinction.

The State of Kansas is proud of Bob Fee and wishes him and his wife Annie well following his successful term as chairman of the Big "I."●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Swann, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-188. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Illinois urging the United States Congress to protect, strengthen, and improve the child nutrition programs through a Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act that builds on the Healthy, Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010 to ensure that low-income children continue to have access to nutritious meals through the year; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 615

Whereas, Regular access to healthy and affordable meals has been proven to be one of the strongest means of improved school performance, improved health, and sound childhood development; and

Whereas, According to 2020 census data, Black households reported food insecurity rates that were more than twice as high as white households; and

Whereas, Research shows that childhood hunger and food insecurity have a range of negative impacts on the health, academic performance, and overall well-being of children; and

Whereas, Research suggests that older Black students may be more likely to skip meals during the week than white students; and

Whereas, School nutrition programs offer the opportunity to provide healthy food and improve dietary quality for students who may otherwise not eat; and

Whereas, School meals can also have a positive impact on grades, absences, and tardiness among students; and

Whereas, Students from Black families are more likely to receive free or reduced-price