

Cornell, her brother-in-law Rik Cornell, and her devoted cat Huey—in our thoughts and prayers.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GHAZAL FAMILY'S IMMIGRATION

Mr. REED. Madam President, I rise today in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the arrival of the Ghazal Family to the United States, a family whose legacy is inextricably intertwined with that of my State of Rhode Island.

On December 11, 1972, as the threat of violence and conflict in Lebanon festered, the Ghazal family set off for the United States. Arriving at Logan Airport, four young boys and two intrepid parents were immediately confronted with their first challenge: adapting from Beirut's sunny and warm weather to the blistering cold of New England in the winter. Driving south and settling in Rhode Island did little to change the weather.

But as so many immigrants did before them, the family began to put down roots in Rhode Island, settled down and made a name for themselves in their newly adopted country. The Ghazals were sponsored and primarily welcomed and hosted by their maternal uncle, the late Very Reverend Abdulahad Gabriel Doumato, then the pastor of St. Ephraim's Syriac Orthodox Church in Central Falls, RI, and his wife Victoria, as well as many other Doumato uncles, aunts, and cousins, who had made their own journeys to Rhode Island starting in 1952.

The Ghazal family swiftly became an active part of their communities like so many before them and so many since. Four generations later, the family has grown to 36 with 11 grandchildren, 9 great-grandchildren, and perhaps there are more to come. They understand and emphasize the importance of hard work, a good education, and service to other.

There is even a Senate wrinkle to the story of the Ghazals. One of their sons, Jay, worked for my predecessor Senator Claiborne Pell for 12 years and met his wife Maria here in the Senate when she worked for Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan. They, like the other members of the Ghazal family, have dedicated their lives to mission-driven work. Given this family's history, I am confident that future generations of the Ghazal family will equally cherish and treasure the American ideals their predecessors have adopted and continue to believe in the American dream.

And as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of this exceptional family's arrival in America, it is a welcome reminder to honor the legacy of those families who are celebrating their 75th, 100th, and even 1st such anniversary. The story of America has always been and continues to be a story of immigration. I am proud that so many immigrant families, like the Ghazal family, call Rhode Island home. Their con-

tributions enrich our communities and broaden our experiences. Their influence has helped define what it means to be a Rhode Islander and an American.

Finally, I extend my best wishes to the Ghazal family for the next 50 years of their journey in America and thank them all for their rich contributions to Rhode Island and our country.

TRIBUTE TO CARL SOSEBEE

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I rise today to praise one of our fine civil servants—Mr. Carl Sosebee, of Silver Spring, MD—for his service and leadership at the Peace Corps, which has culminated in his role as senior advisor to the Director. Mr. Sosebee's outstanding service in the Agency spans 20 years and a range of roles.

Throughout Mr. Sosebee's Peace Corps career, he has demonstrated his willingness to serve by taking on whatever position and challenge he was asked to fill, whether as attorney advisor, deputy general counsel, acting general counsel, acting chief of staff, and acting Associate Director of External Affairs, to name just a few. Thanks to this breadth of experience, Mr. Sosebee's knowledge of the Peace Corps' operations is unmatched and has uniquely qualified him to serve as a trusted adviser to several leaders of the agency.

Mr. Sosebee's skills and judgement were essential to helping the Agency weather one of its greatest challenges in recent years: the global evacuation of almost 7,000 volunteers at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, followed by the detailed planning and systemic changes the Peace Corps undertook to return volunteers to service in a world that has fundamentally changed. It was in no small part thanks to Mr. Sosebee's efforts that the Peace Corps, which just started sending volunteers overseas again in March of 2022, is already back in service in 45 countries, with 11 more on the way shortly.

Throughout his 20 years at the Peace Corps, Mr. Sosebee has functioned as an adhesive glue between administrations, consistently supporting each new leadership team that arrived in the Agency, while also providing career staff with a stable management presence during times of transition. Mr. Sosebee worked tirelessly as a dedicated civil servant to help each administration, regardless of political affiliation, achieve its goals with regards to the Peace Corps.

Mr. Sosebee is highly regarded within the Peace Corps. He is respected by his colleagues for his sharp intellect, professionalism, kindness, dedication to service, and for being a consummate team player. Mr. Sosebee consistently answered the call to service, enabling the Peace Corps to even more effectively fulfill its mission of promoting world peace and friendship.

In addition to his service at the Peace Corps, Mr. Sosebee has held posi-

tions at the Community Services Administration, the Department of State, and the U.S. Agency for International Development. Prior to his Federal service, Mr. Sosebee was a private legal practitioner, handling criminal and civil cases in the District of Columbia.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Carl Sosebee for his more than 40 years of service to the United States and in wishing him continued success in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO DR. KENNETH KATZMAN

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam President, I rise today to honor the career of a dedicated public servant, Dr. Kenneth Katzman, for his three decades as a Congressional Research Service, CRS, analyst supporting the U.S. Congress.

Dr. Katzman began his CRS career in 1991, where he established himself as an indispensable expert on the Middle East. Known as a prolific writer, Dr. Katzman has authored hundreds of memoranda, reports, and other writings on the Middle East.

Throughout his time at CRS, Dr. Katzman has covered critical foreign policy issues, from the Gulf War to U.S. sanctions policies and the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. His insights and analysis include tracking developments across the Middle East, including Qatar, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Kuwait. Dr. Katzman's expertise is deeply appreciated and critical to many Members of Congress and their teams across both sides of the aisle. Throughout my time in Congress, I have worked closely with Dr. Katzman on a number of issues related to the Middle East and thank him for all he has done to help inform my work related to the region.

Dr. Katzman personifies the Congressional Research Service's mission by delivering objective, fact-based analysis to offices across Capitol Hill so they can better understand unfolding events, their historical context, and the potential implications of congressional decisions. It is no surprise that he has been asked to testify before multiple congressional committee and subcommittee hearings covering U.S. foreign policy in Iraq, Iran, and Afghanistan. In 1996 and, again, in 2001, Dr. Katzman was detailed to the then-House International Relations Committee to support its work on Middle East issues, hearings, and legislation—including the Iran and Libya Sanctions Act of 1996. In addition to his large body of written work and testimony before Congress, Dr. Katzman has shared his expertise with Members and staff on several congressional delegations to the Middle East, including trips to Iraq and Afghanistan.

We will miss Dr. Katzman on Capitol Hill as a cherished resource on foreign policy matters. I congratulate him on his well-deserved retirement.

TRIBUTE TO MARY ANN ULLRICH

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I rise today to honor Mary Ann Ullrich, manager of the Office of Congressional Publishing at the Government Publishing Office, GPO. On December 31, 2022, Mary will retire from the GPO after more than 37 years of public service. Mary's career—which is truly an American dream as she will tell you herself—started after she graduated from high school with excellent typing skills and a strong work ethic. She started in 1980 in the personnel office of what was then known as the Government Printing Office as a clerk typist. She is now retiring from GPO as the second shift manager in congressional publishing.

Mary is a New York City native, who grew up in the Bronx before relocating to Maryland. After she started working at GPO, she quickly moved up through the ranks through printing procurement, customer service, and quality assurance, where she reviewed printing for quality defects and was commended for discovering a loophole in the QATAP Program that contractors must adhere to as a procurement requirement, potentially saving taxpayer dollars. Mary then worked for the superintendent of documents designing marketing materials and the postscript service section processing electronic prepress files and posting government documents online. Mary received a prestigious Hammer Award for her work on GPOAccess during the Clinton administration “for helping to create a government that works better and costs less.” She posted publications online such as the daily CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, the Starr Report, and many assorted congressional and Federal Government publications.

Mary then went to typography and design where she typeset many different products, including Ronald Reagan's lying in state card and program when he was interred in the Capitol. She received a plaque from Mrs. Reagan for her efforts. She also typeset and produced the White House programs for Presidential events during the Clinton and Bush administrations, Colin Powell's “Joint Force Quarterly (JFQ) Magazine,” and other government publications such as the “Senate Catalogue of Fine Art” and “Glenn Brown's History of the Capitol”—both fine art books for the Senate Curator's office and the Architect of the Capitol's office respectively.

Mary was working with the White House public affairs staff on a White House program the morning of September 11, 2001, when news of the terrorist attack on our country was broadcast. She proudly worked almost 32 hours straight to produce the 9/11 Memorial Ceremony Program to ensure that all was ready for the 10 a.m. memorial service at Washington National Cathedral. For her dedication to excellence, then-First Lady Laura Bush sent a personally signed thank you to Mary.

On October 1, 2006, Mary moved up to congressional publishing, where she

worked directly with congressional staff to procure the publications of Congress. She handled the procurement and press sheet inspection of the Glenn Brown Book that she had typeset in T&D, finishing the production cycle full-circle. Mary also worked with the Senate Curators to produce the “Senate Catalogue of Graphic Art” and the reprint of “Constantino Brumidi, Artist of the Capitol” fine art book—all high-quality printed books—as well as large projects such as the House's new Members orientation products. Mary then went to second shift on October 21, 2012, working with the House and Senate Official Reporters on the daily CONGRESSIONAL RECORD printing and online services; the Senate and House Bill Clerks and Enrolling Clerks on producing bills and legislation; and the House and Senate Appropriations Committees' omnibus bills and other materials, to name just a few of her responsibilities.

I often say that our nonpartisan career civil service is one of our Nation's most important and least appreciated assets. It consists of hundreds of thousands of people like Mary Ullrich, mostly anonymous, who serve their fellow Americans with pride and distinction. If you ask Mary, she will tell you how proud she is to be a career civil servant and how fortunate she has felt to work at the GPO. Mary has looked up at the Capitol Dome every day from the front door of GPO, brimming with pride for the part she has played in “Keeping America Informed” about Congress and the legislative process. I want to congratulate Mary Ann Ullrich of the GPO on her well-earned retirement after over 37 years of loyal Federal service.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING MAINE'S TAXPAYER ADVOCATE SERVICE

• Mr. KING. Madam President, today, I want to acknowledge and honor the work of Maine's Taxpayer Advocate Service office in Augusta. The Taxpayer Advocate Service is an independent office of the Internal Revenue Service that is dedicated to ensuring that every taxpayer is treated fairly. While the Taxpayer Advocate Service does focus in part on making critically important observations and recommendations regarding the taxpayer experience in their annual report to Congress, I want to focus my remarks on the individual assistance they provide to taxpayers—helping Maine people resolve problems that they have not been able to resolve on their own with the IRS.

The Augusta staff is a tightly knit group of dedicated public servants whose contributions to the lives of individuals across Maine far outweigh their size. My staff works with them almost daily to help constituents work through IRS issues that can often be

very stressful for individuals, couples, families, businesses, and organizations. This kind of work makes a huge impact, and the professionals who work in our Maine office are among the best at what they do. They continuously put their expertise to work for us and do not rest on a case until every “i” is dotted and every “t” is crossed.

TAS's Augusta office stands out to us as an example of excellence in congressional casework. The challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and the unprecedented workload and unique problems associated with the pandemic challenged the Federal workforce in a brand-new way. This group rose to that challenge with attention to every case even when we knew they were simply overwhelmed with the sheer volume of inquiries. Their dedication to TAS's mission has shined more brightly than ever since the spring of 2020.

Constituent service work is noble and impactful. My office relies heavily on dozens of Federal office staff to assist in bringing meaningful results to the people of Maine. The Maine Taxpayer Advocate's office has stood out by consistently rising to each challenge with compassion and professionalism. The Maine office of the Taxpayer Advocate Service and its staff exemplifies public service at its best. Myself, my staff, and all those in Maine who work with the office benefits greatly from the interaction. The work immeasurably improves the lives of people facing IRS issues that are often dramatic and daunting. Further, we consider them an integral part of our ability to resolve problems, and I thank them for their hard work, their caring nature, and their exceptional dedication to excellence.●

TRIBUTE TO KATE BROWN

• Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, today I would like to pay tribute to my State of Oregon's outgoing Governor, Kate Brown, who has not only led the Beaver State for the last 8 years but has devoted much of her life to public service.

Governor Brown got her start in Oregon politics when she was appointed to fill a seat in the Oregon House in 1991, which she would continue to serve in for a total of three terms before going on to serve another three terms in the State senate. Recognized for her leadership, she was elected by her peers to serve as majority leader in 2003 and would go on to serve in that position until leaving the senate in 2009. Her 6 years as majority leader were marked with an impressive list of major accomplishments and bills passed. And I was fortunate, during a portion of that time—between 2007 and 2009, to be exact—to work alongside her as speaker of the Oregon House and push through a number of those bills that have had such a positive impact on the