

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

people of our State—bills like the Oregon Equality Act, which banned discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and the Oregon Family Fairness Act, which created domestic partnerships for same-sex couples. We established a rainy-day fund to help guard Oregon against sudden economic downturns and updated the Oregon Bottle Bill for the first time since it was passed in 1971 in order to add water bottles to the list of containers with mandatory deposits.

Working together, we made those 2 years some of the most productive in the history of our State. But in 2009, we each set off on new chapters of our lives and our careers—me to serve in the U.S. Senate and Governor Brown to serve for two terms as Oregon's secretary of state, where she made expanding the right of every Oregonian to vote and breaking down the barriers to registration her top priority. As secretary of state, Governor Brown implemented online voter registration, which 87,000 Oregonians availed themselves of within the first year of its enactment. She pushed the use of tablets and iPads to ensure our elections were increasingly accessible to every Oregonian. And because of her efforts, our State became the first to use tablets to help voters with disabilities actually mark their ballots, a practice which has since caught on across the country. And she crafted and pushed for passage of the "motor voter" program to automatically register voters when they get a driver's license that she would actually go on to sign into law and implement once she became Governor.

Like her time in the legislature, Governor Brown distinguished her tenure as secretary of state by her work to bring fairness and opportunity to our State. And that continued into the Governor's mansion where she always strives to put the best interests of Oregonians first, especially working families. Under her watch, Governor Brown oversaw historic investments in education with the Students Success Act. She signed a transformative 10-year, \$5.3 billion package to improve our roads and highways, while creating more pedestrian- and bike-friendly communities. She expanded the Oregon Health Plan so that every child and 94 percent of all adults in our State have some form of health coverage today. Her budget plan included some of the most ambitious goals in the country for taking on climate chaos by reducing carbon emissions and moving to 100 percent clean energy sources. And, of course, Governor Brown saw our State through the dark and difficult days of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Her career in public service has been defined by working to improve our State and help lift up families everywhere. And it is important to remember that, time and again, she had to do so while breaking down one barrier after another. She was the first woman to serve as our senate majority leader, the first openly LGBTQ+ person elect-

ed as a secretary of state in the country, and then the first as Governor. It takes immense courage to be the first at anything—to be a pioneer. And it is her courage which has made Governor Brown such an inspiration to so many in Oregon and across the Nation who have questioned their own place in the world and seeking their own path in life.

As she prepares to transition into the next phase of her life, I am going to miss having Governor Brown there in Mahonia Hall, leading our State through good times and bad. I am going to miss the regular phone calls that we have shared, almost every month, for nearly 8 years. But I know that this is far from the end. I know that, even as she leaves office, Governor Brown will continue to make important and meaningful contributions to the lives of her fellow Oregonians. And I, for one, cannot wait to see what she decides to do next.●

TRIBUTE TO PETER COURTNEY

● Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, when the Oregon Legislature comes into session on January 9, it will embark on a new era because, for the first time in 38 years, it will convene without Oregon's longest serving legislator and longest serving senate president, Peter Courtney, among its ranks.

Since the day he stepped off that greyhound bus in Salem, back in 1969, Peter has been a captivating presence in Oregon politics. Through 6 years on the Salem City Council, 7 terms in the Oregon House and 12 in the senate—10 of them as senate president—Peter has sought to not only make government work by pushing to make the legislature meet yearly rather than once every 2 years, but to work on behalf of the people of our State. And he has certainly been a tireless advocate for his community, exemplified by his support for the Salem YMCA he loved so much and once called "home" for 2 years and through this year's groundbreaking on the 34-unit which will serve veterans in need of affordable housing.

As senate president, Peter helped usher a number of landmark bills on everything from housing, to healthcare, to jobs. Among them are the rainy-day fund that I worked with him to establish in order to safeguard our State from sudden economic downturns; the Healthy Kids Act which provided health insurance to 90,000 uninsured children and 30,000 low-income adults; and through the Housing Opportunity Bill which created a new trust fund to increase affordable rental housing development, help more Oregonians become homeowners, prevent homelessness, and maintain and expand the network of community-based nonprofit housing providers.

But there is no question that, of all the issues he has worked on over the years, mental health care is that Peter is most passionate about. Peter has long been recognized throughout Or-

gon as a champion for providing mental health services to those who need it. This passion began when, visiting the Oregon State Hospital back in 2004, the same hospital where "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" was filmed, Peter and a group of local leaders discovered the unclaimed cremated remains of more than 3,500 Oregonian patients sitting in a neglected storage room in corroding copper canisters. Finding those remains and the lack of care with which they were treated set Peter off on a personal mission to ensure that Oregonians suffering from mental illnesses get the care they need and that they are treated with dignity and respect. He led the charge to replace that old State hospital with a new modern facility that also had a boost in staffing so patients could get the care they need. He pushed through a mental health parity bill in 2005 which said that insurance companies had to cover mental health treatment the same as they did physical health treatment. And Peter was also the driving force for successfully increasing our State's cigarette tax and dedicating the extra funding it generates to mental health treatment.

And if there is a second issue that Peter is most passionate about, it would probably have to be preparing our State for a Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake. He once gave each Democrat in the House a small piece of marble with an engraved image of the State capitol once repairs were finished after the damage caused by the 1993 Scotts Mill earthquake as symbol of the importance of this issue. That commitment to safety led Peter to successfully shepherd 12 seismic safety measures into law. And schools and emergency services facilities across Oregon are now safer in the event of an earthquake thanks to the Seismic Rehabilitation Grant Program that he created.

It is hard to imagine what Oregon State politics is going to look like, starting in just a few weeks, without Peter Courtney running the State senate. But as work continues on a multiyear project to retrofit and prepare our capitol in Salem for an inevitable and long overdue earthquake in the Cascadia Subduction Zone, I know that Peter's legacy and his work on so many important issues will continue to touch the lives of Oregonians for a long time to come.●

TRIBUTE TO BOB STOLL

● Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, today I would like to recognize Robert Stoll, a dear friend, brilliant legal mind, and a steadfast champion for the people of Oregon who just celebrated his 80th birthday on December 16, 2022. Adlai Stevenson once said, "It is not the years in your life but the life in your years." Well, Bob has certainly crammed a lot of life into his 80 years on this planet.

A dabbler in journalism as a publisher of the University of Wisconsin