

peaches, which he found wildly outpaced the quality of fruit available back in Europe.

Allan soon left New York City to set up a peach and apple orchard in Daviess County, KY—where the business is still run today. His orchard quickly became a well-run enterprise and a leader in agricultural production and technology. In admirable fashion, Allan gave back to his community in more ways than just his delicious fruit. This peach pioneer would go on to serve two terms as a Kentucky State Representative and play an instrumental role in the construction and expansion of roads throughout this region of the Commonwealth. Allan's sons, Robert Reid, Jr., and John, would later join the family business with this same sense of community until Allan's great-grandson, Billy, would enter the business and form Reid's Orchard, as it is known today.

Since taking the helm, Billy has brought the orchard to new heights, expanding his family's business into a successful year-round operation, a popular community-gathering point, and a local staple of Owensboro. Today, Reid's Orchard caters to Kentuckians across the Commonwealth, offering a wide array of delicious produce and seasonal favorites that include apples, cider, strawberries, flowers, pies, pumpkins, and my personal favorite, peaches. My staff will tell you, amusingly, that peach-picking season is a highly anticipated event for me. Every August, I look forward to sampling Billy's peaches.

To the delight of many, the orchard's success has allowed the family to expand beyond its farm business. Each year, the orchard puts on an annual summer festival, hosting some of country music's biggest names—an impressive feat for a family-run business in Western Kentucky and a further testament to Reid's widespread popularity. For 37 years straight, the orchard would also host its popular Apple Festival. In fact, this festival is so popular locally that the Owensboro community plans to carry on the tradition each fall.

When it is not hosting popular community events, Reid's Orchard regularly welcomes families who have traveled far and wide to pick produce in the orchard, learn about farm life, and let their kids roam free across its 250 acres.

Billy's impressive stewardship of the family business and commitment to his local community have earned him the admiration of Owensboro locals, as well as Kentuckians across the Commonwealth. I am proud to call Billy a long-time friend, a friendship that extends beyond his delicious peach deliveries and spans over 20 years.

From Allan Reid's early love for peaches to Billy's thoughtful expansion of his great-grandfather's legacy, the story of Reid's Orchard has been defined by hard work and ingenuity. It is an American story, a story that renews

our gratitude for this Nation, its opportunity, and its promise.

On behalf of the Senate, I would like to recognize the Reid family for their countless contributions to the Bluegrass, and congratulate Reid's Orchard for 150 years in operation of the American Dream.

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, on April 17, 2023, I was unavoidably absent for rollcall vote No. 83. My absence was due to a family commitment that could not be moved. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on vote No. 83.

#### RECOGNIZING THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF DOUGLAS

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate the tremendous service provided by the Boys and Girls Club of Douglas, WY.

On April 22, 2023, the Boys and Girls Club of Douglas will host its ninth annual Commit to Kids fundraising event. Douglas Mayor Kim Pexton will be the emcee. Former Police Chief Ron Casalenda is the live auctioneer. Esther Martin of Cheyenne, the Wyoming Boys and Girls Club 2023 State Youth of the Year, will also speak.

For over 20 years, the Boys and Girls Club of Douglas has made a positive difference in the lives of children in Converse County. Every day, the Club fulfills its mission “to inspire all youth, especially those who need us the most.” The Club strives to help young people reach their full potential as productive, responsible, and caring citizens.

In September 2002, the Boys and Girls Club started meeting at a local primary school. With an increase in membership, they then relocated to the Douglas Roller Skating Rink. The need for a dedicated facility became clear. In 2020, the dream of their own building was realized.

The Club's new facility, located at 802 Riverbend Drive, has over 13,000 square feet. The Club successfully funded the innovative new space primarily with donations and private partnership funds. Designed with the local youth in mind, the building provides a safe, nurturing, and inspiring space to develop and learn. There is also administrative space, a teen center, an arts and crafts area, tech room, game area, a kitchen, and a gymnasium with climbing wall.

The Club serves 300 youth, ages 5-18, by focusing on three priority outcomes: academic success, good character and citizenship, and healthy lifestyles. Club members participate in afterschool, summer, and teen programs with academic, career development, character and leadership, sports and recreation, and homeschool curricula. Meals are provided for all members who need them. During the Covid-19 pandemic, many kids fell behind in their schoolwork. With the Club's reading program,

students were able to get back on track. Every August, there is no better place to be than the Wyoming State Fair Parade in Douglas. I look forward to seeing the Boys and Girls Club float, along with the bright and engaged faces of its members.

Never losing sight of its values, volunteers, staff, and board members remain dedicated to meeting the needs of children as they grow into young adults. Today, the Club staff and board members include:

Jay Butler, Board Chairman  
 Travis Wells, Board Vice-Chair  
 Lindsey Hanks, Board Secretary  
 Catherine Nicholas, Board Treasurer  
 Carl Kusters, Board Member  
 Joe Schell, Board Member  
 Paige Rider, Board Member  
 Shawn Wilde, Board Member  
 Todde Moore, Board Member  
 Joe Burke, Chief Executive Officer  
 Robert Ricks, Unit Director  
 Carrise Moon, Special Programs Coordinator  
 Amy Lolley, Grants Manager/Marketing Specialist  
 Amy Rudloff, Bookkeeper  
 Tania Malone, Office Administrator  
 Heidi Toone, Kitchen Manager  
 Brendon Amble, Health & Wellness Specialist  
 Addy Sexson, Life Skills Specialist  
 Holly Winters, STEM Specialist  
 Baylea Senger, Art Specialist  
 Whitney Tomlinson, Teen & Workforce Specialist  
 Taylor Ward, Youth Development Professional  
 Zoey Redfern, Youth Development Professional  
 Katelynn Hill, Youth Development Professional  
 Hesston Haskins, Youth Development Professional

A special thank you to board chairman Jay Butler, along with his wife Linda, who provided a matching gift of \$100,000 in honor of this event. All funds raised will go to current Club operations.

It is an honor for me to rise in recognition of the great work done by the Boys and Girls Club of Douglas, WY. The Club demonstrates how important it is to invest our time, experience, and resources in the children of our communities. Bobbi joins me in extending our very best wishes.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### REMEMBERING RALPH “TEDDY” BROWN, SR.

● Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart to pay tribute to Ralph “Teddy” Brown, Sr., a dedicated police officer, community leader, and friend to many. Sadly, Mr. Brown passed away on March 14, 2023, at the age of 82. He will be remembered for his commitment to his country and community of West Haven, CT, and his love for his family.

Born in Ansonia, CT, Teddy served in the U.S. Air Force and was stationed in Washington State. It was there he met Carroll, who would become his wife of

65 years. After Teddy's military service ended, the Browns moved to West Haven, CT, where they have been deeply enmeshed in the community for over six decades.

In 1977, at the age of 37, Teddy made history as one of the first three Black police officers in the city of West Haven. He ably served the department for 28 years, retiring as a detective sergeant. On the force, Teddy was known as a positive role model for all, particularly for West Haven's youngest residents.

After his retirement, Teddy continued his outstanding legacy of community service. He served as commissioner on West Haven's Parks and Recreation Board and president of the West Haven Library Board. He continued to elevate future generations by coaching youth basketball.

Teddy was also one of the strongest supporters of the West Haven Black Coalition, founded by his wife Carroll in 1986. This long-standing community organization has disbursed more than \$200,000 in scholarships to students, in recognition of their academic achievements, leadership skills, and community service. For the past 37 years, Teddy was a strong advocate for the coalition, contributing financially to the scholarships and supporting Carroll's great work. The West Haven Black Coalition is a remarkable testament to the Browns' dedication to their community.

Through his decades of service as a law enforcement officer and a civic leader, Teddy left a lasting impact on everyone around him. But he will be remembered first and foremost as a man who loved his family. He led by example as a mentor and a role model to countless young people.

My wife Cynthia and I extend our deepest sympathies to Teddy's family during this difficult time, particularly to his wife Carroll, his three sons, and his grandchildren. May their many wonderful memories of Teddy be a blessing. I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring Teddy's life and legacy, both large and lasting. ●

#### 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF SKY TAVERN

● Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the 75th anniversary of Sky Tavern. In 1948, determined to help young Nevadans learn how to ski, Marcelle "Marce" Herz filled her station wagon up with kids and drove up the Mt. Rose Highway, fit them with equipment and gear, and began teaching them about the sport and the environment around them. Ms. Herz's efforts eventually led to the creation of the Sky Tavern's Jr. Ski Program, which has taught over 100,000 Reno area youth how to ski and snowboard and continues to serve over 2,000 children each winter.

Today, Sky Tavern is a nonprofit organization that provides summer and winter outdoor sports training, com-

petitions, recreation, and events that are open to all in the region. Sky Tavern's goal and mission is to give as many youth as possible the opportunity to engage in outdoor sports and recreation—no matter their financial or physical abilities—providing lifelong experiences that promote personal growth and responsibility. Operated by a volunteer workforce, Sky Tavern is a shining example of what is possible through strong community engagement. From the instructors down to the lift operators, nearly everyone helping Sky Tavern achieve its mission is taking time out of their personal lives to do so. At its core, Sky Tavern runs on the spirit of giving back, while also striving to fulfill founder Marce Herz's goal of helping any child learn to ski and have fun doing it.

There are many examples of how Sky Tavern has helped people grow through their love of the outdoors. Sky Tavern Ski Program alumni include Olympians such as three-time medalist David Wise, Lane Spina, and Tamara McKinney. Sky Tavern's promise to give opportunities to anyone, regardless of their physical or financial ability is the cornerstone that they operate on. The specially trained volunteer staff in their adaptive program are dedicated to helping children with disabilities learn how to ski and enjoy the outdoors. That dedication has yielded results; several Paralympians, including Gold-medalist Ricci Kilgore can trace their roots back to Sky Tavern.

Congratulations to Sky Tavern on its 75th anniversary. I look forward to seeing their continued impact on the lives of young people in Nevada. ●

#### TRIBUTE TO COLONEL WILLIAM V. WENGER

● Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, it is my privilege to recognize the tremendous accomplishments of COL William V. Wenger on the occasion of his receipt of the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award from the Boy Scouts of America and the National Eagle Scout Association. Colonel Wenger has lived a life of honor, faith, and service. He is a patriot who has made America a safer and better nation.

Colonel Wenger served in the U.S. Army for more than 42 years, commanding American soldiers across the country and around the world. He served in the Gulf war, helped reestablish order in Los Angeles after the Rodney King riots, and provided military support to law enforcement after the 1994 Northridge earthquake.

In 2000, Colonel Wenger retired from the military, only to return to Active service after the September 11 terrorist attacks. He then volunteered for two tours of duty in both Iraq and Afghanistan, where he worked to bring stability, security, and the rule of law to lands haunted by terrorism. Among other contributions, he trained Iraqi and Afghan police and led counter-IED training efforts to save the lives of his fellow coalition soldiers and police.

Throughout his military career, Colonel Wenger demonstrated extraordinary tactical, strategic, combat advisory, and logistical leadership abilities. He consistently volunteered for difficult assignments, overcame daunting challenges, and relentlessly pursued excellence. He is precisely the kind of clear-eyed, tough minded, mission-oriented leader that every soldier should aspire to become.

In the civilian world, Colonel Wenger has earned distinction as a manager, trainer, author, business leader, and professor of business, history, and military science. He is husband to Robin D. Wenger and father to two sons, John Paul and Patrick.

He is also a committed philanthropist who participates in his local Kiwanis, Rotary Club, and Knights Templar, among other civic organizations. He is a U.S. Army Reserve ambassador and a leader of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, which supports our Reserve service-members, their families, and their employers. The ESGR recently awarded Colonel Wenger its highest award, the prestigious James Roche Spirit of Volunteerism Award.

More than any other civic organization, however, Colonel Wenger has demonstrated an exceptional, lifelong commitment to the Boy Scouts of America. He joined the Boy Scouts in 1954 and earned his Eagle Scout Award in 1963. He has since served in senior positions in the organization, including being elected the chief of the Tribe of Tahquitz. While serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, he devoted much of his limited free time to support the development of the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts in those nations. For his work, he will receive the highest honor bestowed by Scouting on April 23—an honor well earned.

A nation is only as good as its people. America is not made great by its geography or its founding documents alone. It is made great by the patriots who serve the Nation and make us proud when we look up and salute the American flag. It is made great by men who dedicate decades of their lives to protect this Nation in uniform, more than half a century to educating our youth to be "physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight," and who spend their later years teaching young adults about our Nation's history. In short, it is made great by men like Colonel Wenger.

On behalf of a grateful nation, I would like to thank Colonel Wenger for his contributions to our Republic. ●

#### REMEMBERING IRMA CANTU ACOSTA

● Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate the life of Irma Cantu Acosta, a titan in Southern Californian real estate and a beloved wife, mother, and grandmother.

Irma grew up in Los Angeles after her parents, Tomasita Saenz Cantu and