

In the early 1910s, railroad foreman Francisco Maestas and other Mexican American parents sought to place their children into the public school on the “White side” of town in Alamosa, CO. After the school district repeatedly denied to enroll their children, Maestas and other parents formed the “Spanish-American Union” and brought together 180 parents on a petition to challenge Alamosa’s school segregation. Their petition was denied, as was their attempt to seek assistance from the Colorado State superintendent. Following these denials, the community staged a boycott for 3 months to protest these injustices, to no avail.

Colorado’s Constitution has long prohibited public schools from classifying and distinguishing school children based on color and race, but as the Maestas case demonstrates, school districts sometimes fell short of ensuring equity before the law. Faced with these repeated denials, the community continued to organize with the help of the Society for the Mutual Protection of Workers—SPMDTU—one of America’s oldest mutual aid societies, and Father E.J. Montel, a Catholic priest, who helped them raise funds to hire legal representation and file a lawsuit against the Alamosa Board of Education.

The school district contended that since it viewed Mexican American students as part “of the Caucasian race,” it was not discriminating based on race but rather addressing its Spanish-speaking students’ needs. However, the school district was disproven of its assertion when students answered questions in English while on the stand.

In March of 1914, the district court ruled in favor of Francisco Maestas, stating that “the only way to destroy this feeling of discontent and bitterness which has recently grown up, is to allow all children so prepared, to attend the school nearest them”—an early and important step toward desegregation and a victory for Colorado’s Mexican American community.

In recent years, bipartisan leaders in Colorado have worked to ensure this landmark case gets the recognition it deserves. After the Colorado Legislature and the State board of education recognized the case as a significant Colorado court decision, it is now taught as part of the revised social studies curriculum for all Colorado high school students. Now, schoolchildren across Colorado will learn about Colorado’s early steps toward ensuring equity in education for students from all backgrounds.

TRIBUTE TO LINDA ROBERTSON

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Linda Robertson in honor of her storied career in public service, including as a key member of the Federal Reserve’s staff for over 13 years. Her career has touched many of the most important economic events of the past 40 years.

Originally from Oklahoma, Linda first came to Washington to work for Congressman Jim Jones. She quickly made her mark working on taxation and finance matters both in his office and for the Committee on Ways and Means. It was in this job that she had a front row seat to the 1986 tax reform effort made famous by books like “Showdown at Gucci Gulch.” While continuing her work in Congress during the day, she attended classes at night to earn her master of laws in taxation.

Based on her exceptional congressional experience and knowledge of policy, Linda was later nominated and confirmed to serve as Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs and Public Liaison at the U.S. Department of the Treasury. Following her service at the Treasury Department, she worked as the top public advocate for Johns Hopkins University and Johns Hopkins Medicine.

Linda returned to public service in August 2009 as an assistant to the Federal Reserve Board and head of its congressional liaison office. She began this position at a time of immense challenge for the country and as Congress and our regulatory Agencies worked to stabilize the financial system following the great recession of 2008.

From the global financial crisis through the pandemic, Linda has served as a trusted advisor to the Federal Reserve Board and has played an invaluable role in keeping Congress and the public apprised of the Federal Reserve’s work to fulfill its mandates on behalf of the American people. Federal Reserve Board Chairs Bernanke, Yellen, and Powell all benefited from Linda’s experience and dedication to public service.

Linda also returned to Treasury in 2021 to advise Secretary Yellen as she became the first woman to serve as Treasury Secretary. Linda’s work was vital last year when we confirmed President Biden’s slate of Federal Reserve Board nominees. With her countless hours of hard work, we were able to confirm a full Federal Reserve Board, something that had not been done in nearly a decade.

Linda’s lasting legacy also includes those that she worked with and mentored throughout her career. Those that had the privilege of learning from her wisdom have gone on to fill positions throughout Washington. One of Linda’s former interns from her time at the Treasury Department is my scheduler, Diana Baron, also from Oklahoma, who has been with me on my staff for nearly 25 years. I am sure many of my colleagues have similar stories.

Her commitment to public service, formidable talent, and immense knowledge will be missed by those at the Federal Reserve and many of us on Capitol Hill, particularly those of us on the Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee. I wish Linda much success in her next chapter which—

without hearings to prep for or bills to review—I expect will include ample time spent with family and friends.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS HAGEN

• Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, today, I rise to honor the lifetime accomplishments of Thomas B. Hagen, a remarkable leader, a pillar of his hometown of Erie, PA, and a man whose commitment to public service is unparalleled.

Tom Hagen is a Navy man, an officer with more than 30 years of service to his country, and while he retired long ago, he has continued to live up to the Navy’s belief of “Not self, but Country.”

You can see Tom’s Navy background in one of his other passions, historical preservation. His support enabled the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of American History to exhibit the USS *Gunboat Philadelphia* and his efforts enabled the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to reconstruct Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry’s War of 1812 vessel, the *Flagship Niagara*. Thanks to his efforts on behalf of these and many other projects, Tom has helped to ensure that many historical sites across our country will be available for future generations to enjoy.

Tom is also deeply committed to the economic vitality of his hometown of Erie and has spearheaded efforts to ensure that Erie is a thriving community that serves all of its residents equitably. His support for economic development through the Erie Innovation District has instilled hope in many for the growth and success of northwestern Pennsylvania. His support for the “Empower Erie” initiative led to the creation of the Erie County Community College that provides a pathway for Erie County residents to more accessible education and greater employment opportunities. Tom has also played a key role in the purchase and rehabilitation of countless buildings in Erie, not only revitalizing the economy, but also creating employment.

Tom is equally committed to providing opportunities for those struggling to better their lives. In 2015, he established the Susan Hirt Hagen fund to identify promising ideas to address persistent poverty, improve educational achievement, and halt economic decline. He has sought to help the vulnerable in times of crisis through his support for nonprofits like SafeNet, helping them take in more victims of abuse.

Erie has had few better friends than Tom Hagen. He is not just a friend to the city; he is the quintessential servant leader who steps in to fill a need wherever one may be, doing so with humility and always seeking to elevate others before himself. The care, commitment, and support he has shown to this city and this region are remarkable.

From his service as a captain in the U.S. Navy, his tenure as Pennsylvania's last secretary of commerce and first secretary of community and economic development, to his chairmanship of the board of Erie Insurance Group companies, Tom has a long and distinguished career serving his country, his State, and his community.

It is an honor to call him a friend and to recognize him for his outstanding service to his community and to the country.●

RECOGNIZING RAMSEY'S MARKET

● Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize Ramsey's Market of Lenox, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

The company was founded by Theo and Bonnie Ramsey in 2015 after learning that the local grocery store in Lenox was up for sale. As veterans of the U.S. Air Force, service is key for the Ramsey family, so the pair jumped at the opportunity to fill a critical community need. When a local grocery store goes out of business, residents sometimes have extensive drives just to buy the basic food items. Over the years, Ramsey's Market has been able to expand to include a food locker delivery service, an adjoining Ace Hardware store with a bar inside, and even a second location in Manning, IA.

Another unique aspect of the store is live music. Theo and Bonnie met during their time in the U.S. Air Force Band of the Golden West, where they both were singers. It is very normal for local musicians to perform in the grocery store while customers shop. The staff behind the deli counter, and even Bonnie can often be found singing to customers.

Ramsey's Market has been recognized for their hard work, earning the Iowa Farm Bureau's Renew Rural Iowa Entrepreneur Award in 2018 for their unique shopping experience and their impact on the Lenox community. They have even been recognized for their success by America's Small Business Development Center, Iowa. In January 2022, I had the opportunity to visit the store and see the local impact the business has on Taylor County.

Ramsey's Market's commitment to providing quality groceries in a fun environment is clear. I want to congratulate the Ramsey family, and the entire team at Ramsey's Market, for their continued dedication to finding a solution to the food deserts in Iowa and serving their community. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success in Iowa.●

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN GWEN NIEMI

● Mr. KELLY. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Captain Gwen Niemi for

her service in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corp—WAC—during World War II, from 1942 to 1946. Ms. Niemi was among the first 200 women to become officers in the WAC.

Captain Niemi was born on February 2, 1920, in Lancaster, PA. Ms. Niemi obtained her degree in physical education from West Chester State College. Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, Gwen attended the first WAC training course in Des Moines, IA, graduating from WAC training as a second lieutenant in 1942.

Her first assignment was training recruits at the WAC Training School in Daytona Beach, FL, and was responsible for instructing almost 500 trainees. Gwen next commanded a WAC Company of 180 personnel at Tyndall Field located outside of Panama City, FL. While on assignment at Tyndall Field, Ms. Niemi was temporarily assigned to duty at the San Antonio Aviation Cadet Center. She was promoted to the rank of captain and transferred to Eastern Flying Training Command at Maxwell Field, AL, where she served as a career field manager and evaluator for the WAC Program.

Upon her discharge from the WAC with the rank of captain, Ms. Niemi moved to Tucson, AZ, where she became a teacher in the physical education department at the University of Arizona. Ms. Niemi took 5 years off from teaching, having two children, and then returned to teaching physical education and English and reading at Tucson School District No. 1, now known as TUSD.

Please join me in celebrating Captain Gwen Niemi for being a patriot and a true trailblazer, for her brave service during World War II, and for going on to be an educator at the University of Arizona and at Tucson School District No. 1.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Kelly, 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 appropriate committees.

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

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 1395. A bill to temporarily suspend the debt limit through December 31, 2024.

H.R. 2811. An act to provide for a responsible increase to the debt ceiling, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-1123. A communication from the General Counsel, Office on Violence Against Women, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Tribal Criminal Jurisdiction Reimbursement" (RIN1105-AB69) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2023; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-1124. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting additional legislative proposals that the Department of Defense requests be enacted during the first session of the 118th Congress; to the Select Committee on Intelligence.

EC-1125. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting additional legislative proposals that the Department of Defense requests be enacted during the first session of the 118th Congress; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

EC-1126. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting additional legislative proposals that the Department of Defense requests be enacted during the first session of the 118th Congress; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-1127. A communication from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Copayment Exemption for Indian Veterans" (RIN2900-AR48) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2023; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-1128. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 25, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1129. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 25, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1130. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Dennison, Ohio)" (MB Docket No. 22-337) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 25, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1131. A communication from the Program Analyst, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Extension of Transition Period for Exclusive Use of the Wireless Hearing Aid Compatibility Technical Standard" (WT Docket No. 20-3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 25, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.