

sciences and technology, where he led new strategic efforts for investments in biosciences and biotechnology. He led seminal programs in biorobotics, including starting the design and prototype of Spot, the Boston Dynamics robotic dog, and brain machine interfaces, where he led new programs in brain-controlled prosthetics.

In 2003, he left civil service for the private sector to start new corporate biotechnology efforts with Adlyfe, an Alzheimer's diagnostics company, and Cellphire, Inc., which freeze dries blood products. In 2010, Dr. Rudolph was recruited by the Obama administration and inducted into the Senior Executive Service to lead the Department of Defense Biodefense Program as Director of the Joint Science and Technology Office for Chemical and Biological Defense. At the Pentagon, Dr. Rudolph invested in broad programs to protect the Nation, including new antibody treatments that saved the lives of three Americans in the U.S. during the Ebola outbreak in 2014. Dr. Rudolph concluded his 17-year civil service career leading the Department of Homeland Security's Chemical and Biological Science and Technology Office.

In 2012, through an international research foundation started by Dr. Rudolph, he led a project across over 30 countries to demonstrate the application of brain technology to help injured patients relearn their ability to walk in the Walk Again Project. The trial culminated at the opening of the World Cup in Sao Paulo, Brazil, where a paraplegic opened the world games by kicking a ball onto the pitch with a new prosthetic under brain control.

Dr. Rudolph's outstanding public service continued when he became vice president for research at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, CO, in 2013. At Colorado State, he oversaw record-breaking annual research expenditures approaching \$500 million annually and representing 38 percent of the university's overall budget. During his service, he doubled the number of specialized centers and institutes, including the Center for Healthy Aging, One Health Institute, and Data Science Research Institute, and catalyzed other partnerships in mental wellness, climate adaptation, and agricultural sustainability. Today, CSU ranks among the top tier of research universities in the United States.

Dr. Rudolph has served on numerous executive-level committees and advisory boards. He was a member of the executive board for the Colorado BioScience Association, board member at Innosphere Ventures, and chairman of the board of CO-Labs, which represents 30 Federal research laboratories in the front range. He was on the board of the Colorado Energy Research Collaboratory and the Colorado Department of Education's Higher Research Alliance.

Dr. Rudolph has been recognized for his public service, including a meritorious civil service citation from the

Office of the Secretary of Defense for his contributions to life sciences and national security investments. He also won numerous research awards for his scholarly publications in blood research and tissue engineering.

Dr. Rudolph has performed outstanding Federal service, showing an unwavering commitment to promoting science in service of the public, and has earned the trust and utmost respect of his colleagues and the citizens of Colorado.

I am pleased to honor Alan S. Rudolph's distinguished service and want to express a deep appreciation for his dedication, sacrifice, and outstanding service to his country in the name of science and education.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### RECOGNIZING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONNECTICUT AUDUBON SOCIETY

• Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, I rise today to recognize the Connecticut Audubon Society as it celebrates 125 years of dedication to the protection and preservation of Connecticut's birds, other wildlife, and their habitats.

The Connecticut Audubon Society was founded in 1898 in Fairfield, CT, by a group including the noted author and conservationist Mabel Osgood Wright. In its first year, the group rapidly expanded into a statewide organization, with members in towns and cities across Connecticut, including Bristol, Ivoryton, Bridgeport, Brooklyn, New Haven, Hartford, Roxbury, Farmington, and Greenwich. On June 4, 1898, the organization ratified its first bylaws and outlined its purpose: "to discourage the destruction of birds and their eggs, and to promote the study of nature." Connecticut Audubon Society remains true to this purpose today, while also having expanded the scope of their work to conservation efforts more broadly.

For more than a century, the Connecticut Audubon Society has provided refuges for birds and other wildlife and important opportunities for people to enjoy nature at its sanctuaries and preserves. Today, the organization manages 22 sanctuaries totaling more than 3,400 acres, including the oldest private songbird sanctuary in the United States, Birdcraft, established in 1914. The organization now has regional centers in Fairfield, Milford, Old Lyme, Pomfret, Hampton, and Sherman, an educational program in Hartford, and an EcoTravel office in Essex—a truly statewide presence, bringing their important work to all corners of Connecticut.

One hundred and twenty-five years after its founding, the Connecticut Audubon Society continues its vital mission through conservation, education, and advocacy. The organization boasts 5,600 member-families in every town in

the State, and its outdoor conservation, science, and education programs reach more than 100,000 students and adults each year.

Dedicated to preserving our natural heritage and advocating for a more sustainable future, the Connecticut Audubon Society is a positive model for environmental education and wildlife conservation. I applaud its many accomplishments and hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating the Connecticut Audubon Society on 125 years of unceasing commitment to ecological and environmental excellence.●

#### TRIBUTE TO JOLENE MOLITORIS

• Mr. BROWN. Madam President, it is a privilege to extend my congratulations to Jolene Molitoris as APTA honors Jolene for her extraordinary career and achievements for the public with APTA's Lifetime Achievement Award.

My partnership with Jolene goes back decades, to our early work together in State government in Ohio when Jolene served on the staff of the Ohio Rail Transportation Authority. I introduced Jolene at her Senate confirmation hearing in 1993 for Federal Railroad Administrator, the first woman ever to head that Agency. Jolene went on to become the longest serving FRA Administrator. Jolene blazed more firsts when in 2009 Ohio Governor Ted Strickland appointed her as the first woman to lead the Ohio Department of Transportation, and in that role, she also chaired the Ohio Rail Development Commission.

Recognized by WTS as Woman of the Year in 1995, Jolene has helped boost the women transportation stars who shine today, in addition to her own achievements. While at FRA, she served on the Amtrak board of directors when Amtrak launched the Acela in the Northeast Corridor, promoted rail revitalization with innovative new investment programs, and expanded the number of contracts her agency awarded to women-owned businesses to new Federal highs. At ODOT, Jolene oversaw ODOT's largest construction budget ever to that time and secured \$400 million to bring robust rail service back to Ohio.

Jolene's absolute passion for safety has meant the most. As recent tragic events in Ohio have again unfortunately demonstrated, safety demands unwavering commitment. At FRA and ODOT, Jolene urged Vision Zero, that we must passionately pursue zero incidents and zero casualties. She focused her agencies on safety root cause, expanding focus beyond mere blind compliance by the regulated community. During her FRA tenure, the railroad industry achieved 7 of the safest years to that time.

Nearly 30 ago in 1996, Jolene brought together rail labor, rail management, and other stakeholders to form the FRA Railroad Safety Advisory Committee to develop new regulatory standards through a consensus process.

RSAC continues to operate to this day as one of the few standing negotiated rule-making committees in the Federal Government, offering an elevated voice for rail labor and other advocates in our unceasing pursuit of safety.

Jolene's promotion of Transportation safety excellence, rail passenger, and freight investment, of equity and inclusion—her vivid passion to do the right things for the people of Ohio and for our Nation—drive this APTA honor. I am proud to count Jolene as my partner and my friend, and I salute APTA for presenting this Lifetime Achievement Award to a most distinguished leader: Jolene Molitoris.●

#### TRIBUTE TO MIKE ROCK

● Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I would like to take this occasion to congratulate Mike Rock on his retirement last month from the American Hospital Association—AHA. For 39 years, Mike was a valued member of the AHA's Federal Relations team and proved to be one of the most knowledgeable, effective, and indefatigable healthcare lobbyists on Capitol Hill.

Mike came to Washington in 1975 from Nebraska. He started working in the mail room of Senator Roman Hruska and then joined the staff of Representative Charles Thone of Nebraska. From there, he went to work for Representative Virginia Dodd Smith as a legislative assistant, handling tax, education, and defense issues.

After 9 years on the Hill, Mike joined the AHA in December 1984. Shortly after Mike started at the AHA, his mother Marilyn paid a visit, where his colleagues informed her that their nickname for him was "Cool Breeze." For nearly four decades, Cool Breeze Mike played an integral role in the AHA's advocacy activities and so many of its successes, including expanding access to healthcare for millions of Americans. I have been on the receiving end of Mike's advocacy work for my entire time in Congress. During my tenure on the House Ways and Means Committee and now as a member of the Senate Finance Committee, I relied on Mike's subject matter mastery of healthcare and tax policy, his political astuteness, and his intuitive grasp of what Congress might be able to achieve to improve the Nation's healthcare system. It was always a joy to welcome him into my office.

At the AHA, Mike met his future wife Renee Blankenau, and they have two grown children: Clare and Paul. I am glad Mike will have more time to spend with his family and his avocations: cycling and swimming. I am truly grateful for our friendship and wish him many more happy miles and adventures in his retirement.●

#### RECOGNIZING THE GREATER PRINCE GEORGE'S BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE ON ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

● Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I would like to take this occasion to congratulate the Greater Prince George's Business Roundtable, which is celebrating its 20th anniversary tomorrow at MGM National Harbor. Since 2003, the roundtable—a nonprofit, non-partisan business alliance of chief executives whose companies employ nearly 60,000 people—has worked to improve the county's political and economic landscape and enhance the county residents' quality of life.

Nearly 200 years ago, in "Democracy in America," Alexis de Tocqueville wrote, "In America I encountered sorts of associations of which, I confess, I had no idea, and I often admired the infinite art with which the inhabitants of the United States managed to fix a common goal to the efforts of many men and to get them to advance to it freely." Voluntary associations, de Tocqueville observed, were one of the building blocks upon which our democratic self-governance rests.

The roundtable is a perfect example of such an association. Its members participate voluntarily, hosting community forums on crime and education, creating a VisionFramework to help residents imagine a bright future for the county, and producing a Quality of Life Index to gauge the county's progress toward that future. The roundtable established and runs the Andrews Business and Community Alliance, which promotes Joint Base Andrews, the home of Air Force One, the 459th Air Refueling Wing, and one of the county's two largest employers. All these activities and efforts are done collaboratively, with input from residents and in a spirit of cooperation and mutual respect. As the roundtable's home page states so eloquently, "We believe that business is more than just adjusting overhead or the bottom line. We believe that by giving of our time, our expertise and our inherent sense of altruism, we will help to bring about a better home for all Prince Georgians."

I want to thank Jim Estep, the roundtable's president and chief executive officer; Doyle Mitchell, Jr., the roundtable's board secretary and treasurer; Michael Chiamonte, the board chair; the other board members; and all roundtable members for their indefatigable efforts to make Prince George's County a better place to live and work in. I have been privileged and please to work with the roundtable on so many initiatives these last 20 years. I congratulate the roundtable, confident in my expectation that the next 20 years will bring even more success.●

#### 350TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHBURY, CONNECTICUT

● Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, I rise today to congratulate the town of

Southbury on its 350th anniversary. In 1673, 15 families seeking free religious expression traveled up the Housatonic River and settled on land that is known today as Southbury. Those humble beginnings have grown into a vibrant community of almost 20,000 people. As the only town in the Nation to bear its name, Southbury is truly one of a kind. I was grateful to be invited this past November to participate in the town's 85th anniversary of Southbury's residents coming together to stop the Neo-Nazi organization, the German-American Bund, from establishing a presence in the town. Their determination reminds us of the importance of standing with our neighbors and calling out hate and bigotry in all its forms.

During my 6 years as Southbury's Congressman and the past 10 years as its U.S. Senator, I have come to know many of the town's past and current citizens. Dr. Mark Taylor, a friend and mentor, became nationally known for his knowledge and passion about critical water sources from the Pomperaug River. Lieutenant Colonel Benjamin Hinman was a Revolutionary War hero who also took part in the Constitutional Convention. Gladys Taber was a prolific writer, best known for her series about life at Stillmeadow, her farm in Southbury.

Congratulations to the Town of Southbury on this impressive milestone of 350 years and counting. It is a privilege to represent a community with such a storied past and bright future, and I look forward to continuing to work together to strengthen Southbury for many years to come.●

#### RECOGNIZING NORTH CAROLINA BAPTIST HOSPITAL

● Mr. TILLIS. Madam President, North Carolina Baptist Hospital opened on May 28, 1923, as an 88-bed hospital in Winston-Salem, with a simple commitment: to be a place of healing and teaching.

Since 1923, North Carolina Baptist Hospital has served the community and the region through educational programs. The School of Nursing educated nurses from 1923 to 1974, and the Bowman Gray School of Medicine graduated its first class in 1943.

Today, the hospital plays a pivotal role in research and education for Wake Forest University School of Medicine, a nationally known leader in groundbreaking research and experiential medical education, and the academic core of Advocate Health. North Carolina Baptist Hospital has grown over the years. Now known as Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center, the hospital continues to grow to meet the needs of those it serves.

Today, Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center, has grown to become an 885-bed tertiary care hospital that includes Brenner Children's Hospital, and the health system includes five community hospitals, more