

Collazo, Detective Zachary Plese, Detective Ryan Cagle, and Detective Sergeant Jeffery Mathes for their incredible bravery on behalf of the students and teachers at The Covenant School. They showed true professionalism, courage, and selflessness—which is the very definition of heroism. I also recognize and honor Chief John Drake for his steady presence and clarity of mind on that terrible day.

During times of overwhelming fear and uncertainty, the people of the Volunteer State look to their leaders not only for swift action but for comfort and reassurance. The brave men and women in blue who put their lives on the line every day to protect our communities deserve all the admiration, gratitude, and support we can offer, and I am so honored to represent them here in the U.S. Senate.

Mr. HAGERTY. I thank Senator BLACKBURN.

Mr. President, I join Senator BLACKBURN today to honor the heroic, lifesaving actions by Officer Rex Engelbert of Nashville, TN; Detective Michael Collazo of Smyrna, TN; Detective Sergeant Jeffery Mathes of Nashville, TN; Detective Ryan Cagle of Charlotte, TN; and Detective Zachary Plese of Nashville, TN. These dedicated officers showed exceptional courage by putting their lives on the line to save others.

On March 27, 2023, an unspeakable tragedy took place at The Covenant School in Nashville, TN. A cowardly and depraved murderer's gruesome actions took six innocent lives—including those of three 9-year-old children. I join the families affected, the Nashville community, Tennesseans across our State, and millions of Americans in mourning this heartbreaking and outrageous act of evil.

What is unmistakably clear is the incredible bravery and heroism of the first responders, who prevented this tragedy from being even worse.

Officer Engelbert, Detective Collazo, Detective Sergeant Mathes, Detective Cagle, and Detective Plese, nobly and without hesitation, rushed into an active shooter situation at The Covenant School. Released body camera and surveillance footage shows that these officers confronted and eliminated the lethal threat within a mere 3 minutes.

The rapid response and swift assessments of the emergency not only underscore the strength of their training, but also their bravery as they quickly entered the school despite obvious risks to their own safety. Their actions likely saved countless lives.

I echo the words of Governor Bill Lee when I say, "Gratitude doesn't begin to cover it."

Today, we honor the heroic actions of Officer Engelbert, Detective Collazo, Detective Sergeant Mathes, Detective Cagle, Detective Plese, and the other brave first responders who rushed to the aid of strangers, putting others before themselves that day. I join Tennesseans and all Americans to express our heartfelt gratitude.

U.N. GLOBAL ROAD SAFETY WEEK

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, this week, May 15–21, 2023, marks U.N. Global Road Safety Week, with a focus this year on sustainable transport. As governments look to tackle the issues of climate change, some of the answers lie in making it easier for people to walk, cycle, and use public transport as a way to navigate our cities, but in order to do that, we need to prioritize making these options safer. I recognize the tremendous contributions of our partner organizations in this global effort, including the Association for Safe International Road Travel ASIRT.

More than 1 million people die from road crashes every year, and tens of millions are seriously injured. Road traffic crashes are leading cause of death among young people between the ages of 15 and 29 and the eighth among all people worldwide. It is time to draw attention to the need for improved legislation, awareness, infrastructure, and technology to save more families from the tragedy of losing a loved one.

On this seventh anniversary of U.N. Global Road Safety Week, it is critical to recommit to the goals of raising awareness about road safety and the importance of taking steps to end these preventable deaths. The World Health Organization, in collaboration with partners including governments, NGOs, businesses, and individuals, organizes periodic U.N. Global Safety Weeks. It was initiated in 2007 and, as of 2019, has become an annual event.

In September 2020, the U.N. General Assembly announced the ambitious goal of halving road deaths within 10 years through the adoption of the resolution "Improving global road safety," proclaiming the Decade of Action for Road Safety from 2021–2030. The Global Plan for the Decade of Action provides a roadmap for achieving these goals through improving the design of roads and vehicles, enhancing laws and enforcement of road safety measures, and providing timely and lifesaving emergency care for those injured. Using these policies can help promote walking, cycling, and public transit. Additionally, the U.N. Sustainable Development Goal 3.6 calls on governments and their stakeholders, including NGOs and private citizens, to address the personal, medical, and financial burdens associated with road traffic deaths and injuries.

We must improve the safety of our roads for all who wish to use them, be it for walking, cycling, or driving. As we continue to shift towards more sustainable modes of transit, it is imperative that our laws enable us to curb dangerous behaviors and keep people safe. It is our responsibility to protect our citizens through designing road networks with the most at-risk in mind, and doing the utmost to prevent untimely death or injury due to crashes.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO WADE LITTON

● Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Mr. President, I am pleased to commend Mr. Wade Litton of Greenwood, MS, for his service and contributions to the State of Mississippi while serving as the 87th president of Delta Council.

Organized in 1935, Delta Council plays an important role in uniting agricultural, business, and economic development leadership to solve problems and promote greater opportunities in the Mississippi Delta region, which encompasses 19 counties in northwest Mississippi. Mr. Litton has worked tirelessly this year to advance the priorities of Delta Council, including healthcare, farm policy, economic development, flood control, and education. He is also the third generation of his family to serve as president of Delta Council.

Mr. Litton is the chief executive officer of Wade, Inc., a fourth-generation company that operates 14 John Deere dealerships in the Mississippi Delta. As a businessman, Mr. Litton and his company are at the forefront of evolving farm technology tools that enable producers to become more efficient and productive. Mr. Litton's priorities in leading Delta Council have been to continue the work of the organization and to build stronger relationships with the people of the Delta to help improve the economy and quality of life for all citizens. He is deeply involved in industrial and community development, including the Delta Strong regional economic development association. Mr. Litton assumed the role of Delta Council president during unprecedented times characterized by rising inflation, rural healthcare disruptions, the after effects of the global coronavirus pandemic, and a multitude of other challenges. Wade Litton has been a steady and calm leader over this past year and has contributed his vast knowledge and service to many critical issues during his tenure as president.

Outside of his time spent running his business and serving Delta Council, Mr. Litton contributes his time to many other important organizations. He serves as a commissioner for Greenwood Utilities, a member of the Young Presidents' Organization, and is involved with the Greenwood-Leflore Chamber of Commerce, the Greenwood United Way, the Boys and Girls Club of Leflore County, the Agribusiness Industry Council of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, and the Greenwood Rotary Club. He is also a youth soccer and baseball coach. Mr. Litton, his wife Meagan, and his three children Kenan, Robert, and Elizabeth are members of the First Presbyterian Church, where he serves as an elder.

It is my pleasure to join the citizens of the great State of Mississippi in expressing our appreciation and gratitude to Mr. Wade Litton and in sharing these good wishes with his family. His

years of service and leadership have undoubtedly contributed to the overall success of this highly respected 88-year-old organization, Delta Council.●

REMEMBERING WILLIAM DESHAY ENGLISH

● Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I rise to honor the life and legacy of William “Bill” Deshay English, an Alaskan who passed away on January 11, 2023. The stories of Mr. English’s remarkable life began on a dog sled in a remote part of our State during the cold, snowy depths of winter. After seeing a “giant mosquito” buzzing in the sky as a child, he saw his passion and would go on to become a pilot.

Alaska prides itself as the “flyingest state” in the Nation and it is individuals like Bill English who pioneered that reputation. Even today, nearly 80 percent of our communities are not connected to the road system, so we rely on exceptional pilots to keep Alaskans safe as we travel across some of the most rugged terrain on the planet. Bill English was one of the best. Across more than 36,000 hours of commercial flight, he maintained a perfect safety record. That led to his selection as an Alaska Living Aviator Legend in 2012 and his induction into the Alaska Aviation Hall of Fame 2 years later.

A celebration of life was held for Mr. English in Anchorage last week, where guests shared stories and pictures of his life, including his service to our Nation during World War II, his flying adventures, and his acts of kindness. I join Mr. English’s family and friends in mourning his loss, while remembering his quintessentially Alaskan life and the nearly 100 years he contributed to our beautiful State.

Mr. President, I request that Bill English’s obituary be printed in the RECORD.

The material follows:

OBITUARY FOR WILLIAM DESHAY ENGLISH

William (Bill) Deshay English’s life began on January 31, 1923, with an often-told and much-loved story. After going into labor, Bill’s mother, Agorak, mushed her dog team into the dead of night and subzero temperatures. She was embarked on a harrowing ten-mile journey from her home in Wiseman, Alaska to Coldfoot where the region’s only midwife resided. Charged with running the general store, Bill’s father, William Sr., stayed behind in Wiseman while he awaited the arrival of his newborn son. When Agorak drove her team back to Wiseman with infant Bill wrapped in furs, his father’s worry burst into a celebration throughout the remote, scenic Arctic village on the banks of the Koyukuk River. It was here that Bill spent his childhood as a happy, active village kid.

During the late 1920s, aviator Noel Wien made an historic excursion above the Arctic Circle in his open cockpit biplane, landing on a gravel bar near Wiseman. Young Bill was entranced by the “giant mosquito” buzzing in the sky, a fascination that would eventually turn into a deep passion for the art of flying and a dream of becoming a pilot.

When Bill reached adolescence, his parents sent him to live with his father’s family in California. Despite the culture shock, Bill

excelled academically and developed a passion for track and field. He found that sports offered a way for him to connect with his peers despite coming from a very different background. He graduated from high school in California, after which he returned to Fairbanks and enlisted in the U.S. Army, serving from 1943–1945. Following World War II, Bill was able to pursue his childhood dream of becoming a pilot. He quickly earned his license and applied to work for the very same man, Noel Wien, who had inspired his dream two decades earlier.

In 1948, Bill married Shirley Nelson, a Seattle-native who moved to Fairbanks in 1946 to study English at UAF. Their romance began when Shirley, watching the planes land at Weeks Field in Fairbanks, spotted Bill, clad in caribou mukluks made by his mother, stepping out of his Cessna 140. Love blossomed, and the two would develop an enduring bond that would last 72 years and lead to three children, Sharon (1949), Bill Jr. (1950), and Tamara (1968).

After joining Wien Airlines in 1946, Bill became one of the first Native Alaskan commercial pilots and began a 37-year career as Captain that would take him to the far reaches of Alaska and eventually to a seat on Wien’s board of directors. Along the way, he became the first Native Alaskan pilot to earn an Airline Transport Rating and the first to serve as an FAA examiner. He retired with more than 36,000 hours of commercial flight and a perfect safety record.

During his early tenure at Wien in Fairbanks, Bill helped promote the World Eskimo-Indian Olympics and became its first Master of Ceremonies—a position he proudly served in through the early 1970s. After Bill retired from Wien in 1983, an Anchorage businessman seeking a sure, experienced pilot with solid credentials hired Bill to fly his private jet, a Lockheed Jet Star, around the globe.

Bill was a huge proponent of lifelong education. In his middle-aged years, he earned a Bachelor’s in Business Administration degree with a major in Transportation from the University of Washington. He understood the economic and political influence that ANCSA corporations possessed to advance the education and well-being of Native Alaskan youth. In his retirement, he served on the CIRI Board of Directors and the Cook Inlet Housing Authority Board.

For his long and dedicated career in which he contributed to the evolution, growth, and safety of aviation in Alaska, he was honored in 2012 as an Alaska Living Aviator Legend, and in 2014, was formally inducted into the Alaska Aviation Hall of Fame. In response, he spoke with humility and gratitude for the support he received from fellow Alaskans throughout his life. He was grateful for the opportunity to give back to the State, communities, and people who had made possible the flying career he loved.

Bill passed peacefully on January 11, 2023—nearly 100 years after that first ride in a dog sled. He was at home in Anchorage, surrounded by his loved ones. He will be remembered for his good-natured humor, quiet energy, curiosity, and the enduring peace with which he moved through the world. He will be dearly missed.

He is predeceased by his parents William and Agorak, sister Dishoo, his wife Shirley, and daughter Tamara. He is survived by his daughter Sharon and son Bill Jr., grandchildren Gretta and Wiley; numerous relatives in the Kotzebue area and in the Oakland, California area.

Bill’s family is eternally grateful to the many individuals and organizations who helped care for Bill and Shirley in their final months including the Providence Hospice team, Alzheimer’s Resource of Alaska, and Veterans Affairs of Alaska.●

RECOGNIZING LA RAZA

● Mr. OSSOFF. Mr. President, I rise to commend La Raza radio station for its service to the Latino community in Georgia.

Based in Suwanee, GA, La Raza is the largest Latino radio station in Georgia, informing more than 1 million Latinos throughout the State. The station hosts numerous popular radio shows, including Los Hijos de La Manana, that provide all-day news and entertainment for Latinos across Georgia. Every year, La Raza also hosts a family-friendly festival, bringing nearly 50,000 community members together from across the State to enjoy performances and authentic Mexican food.

As Georgia’s U.S. Senator, I recognize and commend La Raza’s 19 years of service to Latino communities in Atlanta and throughout the entire State of Georgia. ●

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL JAMES BONNER

● Mr. SCHMITT. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the service of MG James Bonner of the U.S. Army. Tomorrow, he will relinquish command after nearly three years of leadership at the Maneuver Support Center of Excellence and Fort Leonard Wood, MO.

During Major General Bonner’s tenure, he demonstrated dedicated leadership and played a crucial role in training approximately 240,000 soldiers, marines, sailors, airmen, coast guardsmen, and civilians at Fort Leonard Wood. Major General Bonner worked diligently to emphasize the critical mission of the Army and Fort Leonard Wood in regional middle schools, high schools, and universities. He also tirelessly advocated for the fort and its surrounding community, expanding partnerships with local, State, and Federal leaders. Throughout his time, he hosted numerous elected officials, including the Missouri Governor, the Secretary of the Army, the Chief of Staff of the Army, the Sergeant Major of the Army, and the Marine Corps Commandant. During each visit, Major General Bonner ensured these strategic leaders witnessed the unique and irreplaceable capabilities and competencies on display at Fort Leonard Wood.

In fact, I had the opportunity to personally witness Major General Bonner’s leadership last week when I visited Fort Leonard Wood. My main focus was to meet with military families residing on the installation and discuss ways to improve their quality of life. Major General Bonner joined me during these visits, and I could clearly see his genuine care and concern for the families under his command.

Recognizing Major General Bonner’s exceptional talent, the Army has selected him to become the commanding general of U.S. Army North, where he will lead the Army’s efforts to defend the homeland. After 3 years of commanding the finest CBRNE, engineer,