

Phil Martin, Coroner
 Danette Eppel, Assessor
 Hal Hutchinson, Engineer
 Terry Stevenson, Emergency Management
 Jim DeWitt, Maintenance Supervisor
 Doug Dumont, Planning Director
 Penny Simonton, Public Health
 Beal Angle, Road and Bridge
 Mona McAuley, Clerk of the Court
 Honorable Edward Buchanan, 8th Judicial District Court Judge
 Honorable F. Scott Peasley, 8th Judicial District Court Judge
 Honorable Nathaniel Hibben, 8th Judicial District Court Judge
 Honorable Clark Allan, 8th Judicial District Court Judge
 Magistrate Scott Cole, 8th Judicial District

It is an honor to rise in recognition of this significant milestone for Platte County. Bobbi joins me in extending our congratulations to the citizens of Platte County on the lasting legacy of their newly renovated courthouse.

TRIBUTE TO DR. ROCHELLE P. WALENSKY, M.D., M.P.H.

Mr. WARNOCK. Madam President, today I have the honor and privilege to recognize Dr. Rochelle Walensky for her unwavering dedication, service, and contributions to public health.

Before her time at the CDC, Dr. Walensky's groundbreaking work in understanding the transmission, prevention, and treatment of HIV/AIDS was paramount in addressing disparities in access to care, vaccine efficacy, and distribution among underserved communities while addressing gaps in knowledge, earning her widespread recognition and acclaim.

With a drive toward making a difference, Dr. Walensky began her tenure as Director of the CDC in 2021, in the midst of the unprecedented global COVID-19 pandemic. Despite this challenge, Dr. Walensky boldly stepped into the role, bringing her years of experience and perspective to the Georgia-based Agency. As evidenced by the CORE Health Equity Science and Intervention Strategy, which she unveiled within months of starting, and declaration that racism is a serious public health crisis, Dr. Walensky's passion for health equity has ensured that equity is baked into the CDC's mission.

Dr. Walensky's pursuit of truth and dedication to the well-being of others has left an indelible mark on the field of public health. Her leadership during the most challenging public health crisis of this generation saved lives. She has displayed true servant leadership by prioritizing science, empathy, and public welfare during heightened times of distrust and misinformation.

As we reflect on Dr. Walensky's remarkable achievements before she begins the next chapter in her career, I am proud to honor her as a pioneer for health equity. Her commitment to public health and pursuit of the idea that we all have inherent value, combined with her tireless efforts to protect and improve the lives of all individuals, will forever inspire future generations

of healthcare professionals. Thank you, Dr. Walensky, for your great service to the American people.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BLANCHARD SPRINGS CAVERNS

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam President, I rise today to recognize Blanchard Springs Caverns on its 50th anniversary. Blanchard Springs Caverns—BSC—opened to the public in 1973 after decades of underground exploration and development to share this natural wonder with the community and the entire world.

Blanchard Springs Caverns is the second-largest commercial cave in the country and is often described as one of the most beautiful. This is, in part, thanks to U.S. Forest Service—USFS—employees, community advocates, and outdoor enthusiasts who ensure they are maintained in their natural state—helping Arkansas live up to its own proud title as a home of spectacular outdoor elements and resources.

Although the first documented visit to the cave system was in 1934 by Civilian Conservation Corps planner Willard Hadley, its name is derived from the nearby spring that formed it and had been used by John H. Blanchard, a Civil War veteran who called the area home, to power a gristmill.

The Dripstone Trail Tour was the first to launch for recreational use, and as time went on, two other tours, the Discovery Trail and the Wild Cave, opened as well. BSC is referred to as a “living” or “active” cave, as it is constantly changing. The caverns include an underground river, delicate “soda straw” formations, stalactites, stalagmites, columns, and huge areas of flowstone. Along with the unique formations, it is also home to a number of species of cave animals. The USFS has demonstrated its commitment to ensuring preservation and conservation of the habitats including the Ozark blind salamander native to BSC. In addition to what is happening underground, there is also the amazing landscape of the Ozark National Forest. As people from all across the globe are attracted to the area for its splendor, they are driving the local economy. This popular destination helps support area businesses, spurring critical development and commerce.

I am pleased to recognize all those helping to maintain Blanchard Springs Caverns over the last five decades. This natural wonder is accessible and engaging because of their dedication to preserving it for all Arkansans and visitors to enjoy.●

REMEMBERING JOE A. GARCIA

• Mr. HEINRICH. Madam President, across more than five decades in public service, Governor Joe A. Garcia of Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo was a leader

among leaders, for his community and all of Indian Country. He was also a dear friend and close mentor. In so many ways, New Mexico will not be the same without him.

Governor Garcia was a three-time Governor of Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo, where he oversaw the Self Governance Initiative, under which the Pueblo now runs all of its Bureau of Indian Affairs programs. He was serving as the Pueblo's Head Councilman at the time of his death.

Governor Garcia served for two terms as the president of the National Congress of American Indians, the oldest and largest American Indian and Alaska Native organization serving sovereign Tribal Nations. He also served as the vice president of the Board of Trustees of the Santa Fe Indian School and as the chairman of the All Indian Pueblo Council—now named the All Pueblo Council of Governors—which represents 20 Pueblos located in New Mexico and Texas.

In addition, Governor Garcia was a member of the Tribal Leaders Task Force, where he served as cochair for 3 years for the Federal Communications Commission. He was also a cochair of the Tribal Technical Advisory Committee for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration—SAMHSA—and cochair of the Tribal Transportation Self Governance Program Negotiated Rulemaking Team.

As a young man, Governor Garcia served in the U.S. Air Force. After his military service, he earned a bachelor of science in electrical engineering from the University of New Mexico. Governor Garcia worked on the technical staff at Los Alamos National Laboratory for 25 years, working on electronics design and development for data acquisition systems. He also taught courses in computers, electronics, lasers, and math at the Northern New Mexico College from 1979 to 1983.

Governor Garcia fought to advance the mission of Tribal sovereignty over education through his leadership at the Santa Fe Indian School—SFIS. The SFIS became the first former Federal Indian boarding school where a Tribal organization—the All Indian Pueblo Council—contracted for the education of their children.

Since the signing of the Santa Fe Indian School Act in 2000, the Pueblo Governors have held the school's land in trust and established an educational program based on the right and responsibility to educate New Mexico Indian children in a way that supports their cultural and traditional belief system. Governor Garcia championed both increased funding and support for SFIS and the establishment of Tribally controlled educational systems across Indian Country.

On a personal note, I was fortunate to be among the many who learned from Governor Garcia—his wise counsel and advice and the example he set

for all of us to follow. I will never forget sitting down with him years ago when he first encouraged me to run for the U.S. Senate to represent our great State. My thoughts are with his wife, Oneva, his daughters Melissa and MorningStar, his six grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and all those in Ohkay Owingeh, New Mexico, and Indian Country who knew and loved him.

The legacy that Governor Garcia built over decades of steadfast advocacy for Tribal sovereignty, educational sovereignty, and the cultural preservation of Pueblo communities will be felt for generations to come.●

TRIBUTE TO KURT NEWMAN, M.D.

● Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam President, I rise today to honor the career of Kurt Newman, M.D., president and chief executive officer of Children's National Hospital on the occasion of his retirement. For nearly four decades, Dr. Kurt Newman has made outstanding contributions to pediatric healthcare for children and families in Maryland, the greater DC metropolitan region, nationally, and internationally.

Dr. Newman joined Children's National Hospital as a surgical fellow in 1984 and became surgeon-in-chief and senior vice president for Joseph E. Robert, Jr. Center for Surgical Care in 2003. Inspired by the bold vision of making surgery for children minimally invasive and pain-free, Dr. Newman was instrumental in developing the vision for the Sheikh Zayed Institute for Pediatric Surgical Innovation at Children's National where he served as founding vice president in 2009.

In 2011, Dr. Newman became president and chief executive officer of Children's National Hospital, a 323-bed pediatric acute care hospital. Under his exemplary leadership, Children's National has risen in the ranks of U.S. News & World Report to be consistently ranked among the very best children's hospitals in the Nation. Under Dr. Newman's leadership, Children's National led the critical COVID-19 response by opening one of the Nation's first drive-thru and walk-up COVID testing center for children, offering a critical resource for children in the region and beyond.

Through a culture of patient-centered care, Dr. Newman has championed innovation in research, operations, and clinical care. He has strengthened and diversified the economy of the region by growing pediatric medical research at Children's National and the high-wage jobs that support that field by turning Children's National into one of the top-funded pediatric institutions in terms of National Institutes of Health funding. Additionally, Dr. Newman has worked tirelessly to draw more funding and attention to the youth mental health crisis through robust advocacy efforts.

As the majority of Children's National Hospital's patient population

hails from Maryland, Dr. Newman has continuously expanded care into our State, including the opening of Children's National Prince George's County on July 23, 2020. This facility, among more than 20 care locations throughout the State, makes it easier for Maryland patients and families to receive high-quality care. I want to personally thank Dr. Newman for keeping members of Congress, especially those of us in the Washington, DC, metropolitan area, informed about critical healthcare needs in our region and throughout the country.

Children's National and its many supporters will celebrate Dr. Newman on his retirement on June 30, 2023, and Children's National will continue to build upon his legacy to provide high-quality pediatric healthcare across the Washington, DC, metropolitan region.

As a nationally recognized leader in pediatric health, I commend Dr. Kurt Newman for his exemplary leadership and dedication to Children's National over nearly four decades. I congratulate him and wish him a well-earned, enjoyable, and fulfilling retirement.●

TRIBUTE TO LEAH BRENGLE

● Mr. THUNE. Madam President, today I recognize Leah Brengle, an intern in my Rapid City, SD, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several weeks.

Leah is a graduate of Sturgis Brown High School in Sturgis, SD. Currently, she is attending South Dakota State University in Brookings, SD, where she is pursuing a degree in criminology. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Leah for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO NOAH GREBLE

● Mr. THUNE. Madam President, today I recognize Noah Greble, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several weeks.

Noah is a graduate of O'Gorman High School in Sioux Falls, SD. Currently, he is attending Augustana University in Sioux Falls, SD, where he is pursuing degrees in government and marketing. He is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Noah for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO KEELY LARSON

● Mr. THUNE. Madam President, today I recognize Keely Larson, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of

the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several weeks.

Keely is a graduate of Harrisburg High School in Harrisburg, SD. Currently, she is attending the University of Arizona in Tucson, AZ, where she is pursuing a degree in philosophy, politics, economics, and law. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Keely for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO TAYLOR NEELY

● Mr. THUNE. Madam President, today I recognize Taylor Neely, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several weeks.

Taylor is a graduate of O'Gorman High School in Sioux Falls, SD. Currently, she is attending the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in Lincoln, NE, where she is pursuing a degree in nutrition, exercise, and health sciences. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Taylor for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO NATALIA STYS

● Mr. THUNE. Madam President, today I recognize Natalia Stys, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several weeks.

Natalia is a graduate of Creighton University in Omaha, NE, having earned a degree in psychology. Currently, she is pursuing a law degree at the University of South Dakota Knudson School of Law in Vermillion, SD. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Natalia for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

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.)