

years, a diverse group of people and communities have all made Portsmouth's culture richer and more vibrant. I am grateful for those who are shining a light on all parts of Portsmouth's history, especially the Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire. The organization has helped make more Granite Staters aware of the long and rich history of New Hampshire's Black community, including in Portsmouth, and deepened our appreciation of the diversity that has made Portsmouth—and New Hampshire—stronger year after year.

While much of Portsmouth has changed over the last four centuries, it still never fails to capture the hearts and imaginations of those who visit. Anyone who has visited Portsmouth even once knows that it is not an easy place to forget. Everyone who has walked Portsmouth's streets, toured the Strawberry Banke Museum to explore our history, taken in a live performance in Prescott Park or the Music Hall, tasted our fresh seafood, or even simply looked out at the Piscataqua River and breathed in the salty ocean air, knows that Portsmouth is a special place.

Portsmouth has endured for four centuries because, across generations, people have believed in the city's promise, worked hard to keep the community strong, and remained dedicated to the notion that Portsmouth's best days are always ahead.

On behalf of Congress and all Granite Staters, I offer my congratulations to the city of Portsmouth on this incredible milestone, and encourage people from across our country to visit this great American city. ●

TRIBUTE TO STEPHEN HOLMES

● Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I am honored to recognize Lt. Stephen Holmes of Candia as July's Granite Stater of the Month. Stephen, a Marine Corps veteran and a firefighter, is working to destigmatize mental health among first responders by visiting New Hampshire fire departments and sharing his own experience dealing with PTSD.

At age 17, Stephen enlisted in the Marine Corps infantry and went on to serve three tours of duty in Iraq. On his return home 4 years later, he wanted to continue helping others through public service and decided to join the Exeter Fire Department. However, it soon became clear that he was struggling with serious symptoms of anxiety, depression, and anger, and he was diagnosed with PTSD at the Manchester VA.

Stephen took a leave of absence from the Exeter Fire Department due to his mental health, and during this time, Stephen's wife gave him a book on meditation, which turned out to be his saving grace. After trying many other therapeutic techniques recommended by his doctors, Stephen found that meditation worked best for him to help him feel at peace.

Stephen did not stop there. After returning to the Exeter Fire Department, he wanted to use the lessons he had learned to shed more light on the issue of first responders' mental health. With the help of other Fire and EMS professionals, Stephen began visiting one fire station after another to share his mental health struggles and the importance of seeking care. Already, many of his peers have started receiving mental health treatment, Stephen's story having provided the push that they needed and the validation that it is okay to need help.

Many first responders might believe that they cannot seek help, since they are the ones that the rest of us rely on in a crisis. However, first responders often need mental health care precisely because of how high-pressure their jobs are and the suffering that they see, which is why Stephen's work is all the more important—he is sharing his firsthand experiences, breaking down stigma, and letting first responders know that it is okay to seek the care that they need.

Stephen exemplifies the Granite State spirit of commitment to community and person-to-person advocacy to bring about positive change. I am deeply grateful, as I know his fellow first responders are, for his bravery and compassion in sharing his personal experiences, and I look forward to seeing how he continues to change people's lives. ●

REMEMBERING BOB PENNEY

● Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, my dear friend, Robert Clark Penney, passed away on March 14, 2023. As we prepare to say our final goodbyes at a memorial ceremony this coming weekend, I am among many Alaskans who are reflecting on the legacy Bob created across our state and especially along his beloved Kenai River.

Named Alaska's Ambassador for Sport Fishing by our State legislature in 2017, Bob was known for his success in business and his tireless advocacy of the iconic Kenai River watershed. But, like many Alaskans, he started with humble roots in the lower 48. Bob was born in Portland in 1932, where he showed his business acumen early. At the age of 10, he and his sister Patsy were gifted a pony. While his sister was gathering her friends for a free ride, Bob was on the next block with the pony, selling rides for a dime apiece.

As he grew up, Bob played on the high school tennis team and worked part-time after school hours. He also loved the outdoors, hunting birds and fishing for salmon in the local rivers near Gresham, OR.

Bob answered the call to head north to Alaska in 1951, when the lumber company he worked for expanded into what was then still a U.S. Territory. When Bob was just 19, the company offered him the job of managing their new Alaska prospect. Bob excelled there, but it was a job he took at Wade

Trailer sales in 1956 that inspired him to enter real estate, where he would really make his mark.

After learning the ropes at Wade's, Bob opened Penney Trailer Sales in 1959, selling mobile homes. Bob soon grew the business to include RVs and housing for construction camps. In just a few short years, he was the largest mobile home dealer in our new State. During that time, Bob also began to invest in real estate and building development. He built everything from single-family homes to massive commercial real estate ventures spanning the west coast and Mexico. Through it all, Bob always gave back, seemingly more by the year. His philosophy in both life and business was to "wear the other guy's shoes" and "always leave a little bit for the next person." Bob served on the boards of the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce, the Anchorage Economic Development Corporation, and the Alaska Regional Hospital Board of Trustees. He was a philanthropist, starting the Anchorage Mayor's Charity Ball, which has now raised more than \$4 million for charitable organizations in our State's largest city.

When the oil industry started to boom in Alaska, Bob felt the State needed greater community involvement to bring attention to this opportunity and others like it. He formed the Organization for the Management of Alaska's Resources—OMAR—later renamed the Resource Development Council—RDC—and included many State leaders in the effort. RDC is now Alaska's largest resource trade association—encompassing the fishing, forestry, mining, oil and gas, and tourism industries—and its advocacy remains critical to growing our economy and reaching our potential as a state.

Bob also had a distinguished tenure as a member of the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council. The federally chartered council is critical to the sustainable management of Alaska's commercial fisheries, one of the largest employers and economic drivers in our State. Bob's service on the board contributed to the health and well-being of the largest fishery in America, but his true passion was the conservation of the fishery of the Kenai River in southcentral Alaska.

Bob was always delighted by Kenai Chinooks, or "Kings," the largest salmon in the world. He loved to take friends and visitors out on the river and the pictures of happy anglers and their catch of the day adorned the walls of his riverfront home. Bob realized these fish are an amazing resource for the State and for Alaskans, as more than half our population can access the river by road in a matter of hours. Bob knew that Alaskans could feed their families and fill their freezers from this river in perpetuity if it was managed correctly.

So, in 1986, Bob founded the Kenai River Sportfishing Association. Under his direction, the association grew into Alaska's premier sportfish and fish

habitat conservation organization, helping to ensure the long-term sustainability of the river.

Bob and two of his friends, Senator Ted Stevens and Bix Bonney, utilized KRSA to start the Kenai River Classic, an invitational fishing tournament held each August. The tournament has brought in elected officials and industry leaders from across America, educating them about the Kenai River and its needs. It has raised over \$25 million for conservation of the local watershed, enabling the rehabilitation of critical fish spawning habitat, opportunities for youth, and better access to the river for both subsistence and sportfishing.

“Alaska’s Sport Fish Ambassador” was true to his name and title, but family and friends were the driving force in his life. Bob met his wife Jeanie in 1973 at a dinner party in Girdwood; they dated and got married on New Year’s Eve in 1974 on a sailing schooner in Kawela Bay off Oahu. Since the vessel was “just outside the limits,” their marriage license lists the latitude and longitude, instead.

Bob always had big ideas for Alaska. He couldn’t walk through a room without taking up one cause or other. He followed through, helping to build our young State. But Bob was always happiest holding court at his home, “River Presence,” on the Kenai, surrounded by his family and friends.

Bob is survived by 4 grown children, 10 grandchildren, 7 great-grandchildren, and leaves a remarkable legacy, from economic development to philanthropy, to world-class fishing on the Kenai River. My family and I knew Bob for decades, were proud to call him our friend, and are grateful for all he did to enrich our great State.●

TRIBUTE TO YUFEI CHEN AND RICHARD ZHU

● Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize outstanding academic achievement on the world stage by none other than two California students. Earlier this month, the 2023 International Biology Olympiad—IBO—showcased the remarkable talents and encyclopedic knowledge of pre-university students in the field of theoretical and laboratory biology.

To even qualify was a challenge, but after competing in a field of 44 States, over 600 schools, and nearly 10,000 students at the national competition and then competing among their peers from over 80 countries at the international level, two California students stood out. Richard Zhu of North Hollywood Senior High School earned a silver medal, while Yufei Chen of University High School in Irvine not only earned a gold medal, he earned the highest score in the world.

Both students demonstrated a remarkable intellect, a refreshing passion in the field of STEM, and an example for every other California student to follow to achieve their dreams. I

can’t wait to see where their talents will lead them next.

Congratulations, once again, to Yufei Chen and Richard Zhu, on the hard-earned and well-deserved recognition.●

400TH ANNIVERSARY OF PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE

● Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the city of Portsmouth, NH, on the 400th anniversary of its first European settlement.

Historians trace Portsmouth’s earliest New World beginnings to the 1623 arrival of David Thomson. With a 6,000-acre land patent in hand from the Council for New England, David and his wife Amias Cole Thomson stepped ashore and constructed a settlement known as Pannaway Plantation. The name is thought to mean “place where the water spreads out” in the language of the Abenaki, one of the many Tribes that inhabited, hunted, and farmed the land and fished local waters long before the Thomsons arrived in Little Harbor. Pannaway found success as a fishing outpost; however, the Thomsons and their crew left for another settlement in Boston Harbor just a few short years later. A new group of settlers directed by Captain John Mason and led by Captain Walter Neale would return in 1630 and establish a colony along the Piscataqua River known as Strawberry Banke. The port facilitated trade that served fishing, lumber, and shipbuilding interests. It was officially incorporated as the town of Portsmouth in 1653, an homage to the English town in Hampshire County where Captain Mason lived.

In these early years, Portsmouth rose to prominence as a major center for commerce and government. It was the colonial capital of New Hampshire, and its dwellings housed wealthy merchants as well as hunters, trappers, fishermen, shipbuilders, and other skilled crafters. Portsmouth also played a pivotal role in our country’s fight for independence. Four months before shots were fired in Lexington and Concord, a group of local men captured Fort William and Mary, a military post that guarded access to the waters of Portsmouth Harbor and the Piscataqua River, and distributed its gunpowder to towns around the colony. Many historians consider the raid as one of the first acts of overt defiance in the American Revolution.

The new Nation also relied on Portsmouth’s expertise in shipbuilding to build vessels for the Continental Navy. Captain John Paul Jones lived in Portsmouth while supervising construction of the USS *Ranger*. The first ship to fly the American flag into battle, the USS *Raleigh* was built on nearby Badger’s Island. The *Raleigh* is proudly depicted on New Hampshire’s State flag and the Great Seal of the State of New Hampshire.

The area’s rich heritage of shipbuilding as well as the deep, ice-free waters of Portsmouth Harbor made it

an ideal location for a Federal navy yard. In 1800, President John Adams established the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. It is the U.S. Navy’s oldest continuously operating shipyard in the country, and its current workforce is responsible for overhauling and repairing America’s modern submarine fleet. In the early 20th century, the shipyard and the city welcomed delegates from Russia and Japan to negotiate an end to the countries’ year-and-a-half-long conflict. They arrived in Portsmouth in August 1905 at the suggestion of President Theodore Roosevelt, who received a Nobel Prize for his efforts to broker an end to the Russo-Japanese War. In Portsmouth, President Roosevelt could count on both the naval shipyard to observe diplomatic protocols and the people of the city to act as gracious hosts to both delegations. The friendly, relaxed environment proved conducive to securing the first international treaty to be signed on U.S. soil and an agreement that set the tone for Pacific relations in the century to follow.

Portsmouth has witnessed so much since its first European settlement, and city residents understand the social, cultural, and economic benefits of preserving and celebrating this history. Its charming downtown retains and blends four centuries of unique buildings, architecture, landmarks, and community spaces, including the 1695 Sherburne House at Strawberry Banke Museum, the 1716 Warner House, the 1784 Governor John Langdon House, the 1855 reconstruction of the iconic North Church, the 1878 rebuilding of the Music Hall, and 1954 creation of Prescott Park. Efforts to sustain these treasures and more have positioned the city as a popular heritage tourism destination with a thriving arts and culture scene, boutique shops, and a variety of local restaurants and cafes. They have also reinvigorated a sense of community among Portsmouth residents by bringing to light their shared history and the city’s distinct local character.

Within these efforts, city residents devote special attention to giving voice to the generations of people who contributed to Portsmouth’s long, complex story with little or no recognition in previous town histories. They carefully consider and pay respect to the Native Tribes—the Abenaki, the Pennacook, the Wabanaki peoples, and more—who inhabited the area for thousands of years prior to European contact. Local museums share the experiences and perspectives of immigrants across the centuries who were drawn to Portsmouth with prospects for a better life. The city is home to the Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire, an organization that strives to build communities that are more inclusive by promoting awareness and appreciation of African-American history, as well as the Portsmouth African Burying Ground. After years of discussion and deliberation by a city-organized committee, the 18th