

day that President Kennedy was shot, and they came of age during a turbulent and restless period of our country. They saw protests over Vietnam, civil rights, and social unrest. They lived through the space race, listening on transistor radios as rockets launched into space. They memorized the names of all the Mercury astronauts, saw men land and walk on the moon. Some veterans in the class served through four wars, countless interventions, and many shows of force. They saw phones go from rotary dials with party lines, to cell phones and smart watches that can access almost any piece of information with the touch of a button. They saw television go from black and white boxes to 85-inch flat screen TVs streaming color events live via satellite around the world. They saw the dawn of computers, survived Y2K, and lived to see the birth of artificial intelligence. They have lived through two different centuries, and they saw and embraced more new technology than any previous generation. Now in their late 60s, they have children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren who will lead the country into the next millennia.

It is my distinct honor to recognize the Billings High School class of 1973 for their incredible legacy. They have etched their name on those majestic sandstone rim rocks that grace their town.●

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS VICKSBURG DISTRICT

● Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Mr. President, I am pleased to recognize the Vicksburg District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers—USACE—for 150 years of exceptional service to the people of Mississippi and our Nation.

Founded in 1873 when Captain William Henry Harrison Benyaure created a USACE office in Monroe, LA, the Vicksburg District now covers 68,000 square miles in Mississippi, Arkansas, and Louisiana; nine major river basins; 278 miles of the Mississippi River; and 460 miles of mainline Mississippi River levees. In 1884, the first permanent Vicksburg office was formed by Captain Eric Bergland. Vicksburg National Military Park was largely constructed by the Vicksburg District in the early 1900s. In response to the Great Mississippi Flood of 1927 and as directed by the Flood Control Act of 1928, the Vicksburg District designed and implemented an extensive flood control program, commonly referred to as the Mississippi Rivers and Tributaries—MR&T—project, which continues to serve the people of Mississippi to this day.

The benefits the Vicksburg District brings to Mississippians and the Nation are hard to quantify, but should not be taken for granted. The average annual benefits of the MR&T project alone are valued at \$1.46 billion, but the positive impacts associated with the many wa-

tersheds, ports, locks and dams, reservoirs, and flood control structures the district manages go far beyond any dollar amount.

The Vicksburg District continues to boast some of the brightest engineering minds in the world as it designs, constructs, and maintains premier civil works projects. In addition to fulfilling its mission of flood control, it also excels in its other mission areas, including navigation, hydro-power, recreation, water supply, emergency operations, and environmental restoration. I am grateful for its important work to protect the people, economy, and natural resources of Mississippi, and I look forward seeing what the Vicksburg District accomplishes in the future.●

TRIBUTE TO RON CUNNINGHAM

● Ms. LUMMIS. Mr. President, it is my privilege to welcome Ron Cunningham of Lander, WY, to the Wyoming Agriculture Hall of Fame. This induction is held during the week of the Wyoming State Fair in Douglas, and it is truly one of the highest honors to receive during one of the best annual events Wyoming has to offer.

To be inducted into the Hall of Fame is truly an honor, no matter what profession you are in. When it comes to sports, the Hall of Fame is traditionally reserved for those who were among the best at their positions, were an exemplary teammate, treated the game with respect, and created a lasting legacy for future generations of fans to admire. While the Wyoming Agriculture Hall of Fame does not take into account how well an individual may run, hit, throw, catch, or tackle, it instead considers an individual's commitment and dedication to agriculture in Wyoming and what they have done to help improve and grow this essential industry in our State. Needless to say, Ron Cunningham checks all of those boxes and then some.

Ron has spent his entire lifetime in the industry, beginning with his early years growing up on a farm in Fremont County. This exposure to agriculture led Ron to pursue further academic endeavors at Casper College and ultimately the University of Wyoming. He then discovered that he had a passion for sharing his knowledge and experience with others and moved to Nebraska to teach agriculture at a high school. Fortunately for all of us in Wyoming, Ron decided he wanted to come home and took a position on a ranch in Ten Sleep. He later accepted a supervisor position with Weed and Pest. After a couple of years, Ron took a job with the University of Wyoming Extension in Fremont County, a position he held for 38 years.

Once Ron was back in Wyoming, he became even more involved in so many ag-related activities that it really would be impossible to name them all. He left his impression on just about every person he came across, whether

it was with 4-H and FFA, planning and organizing Fremont County Farm and Ranch Days, or serving on numerous State boards and local civic organizations. He takes such pride in his work and his efforts will help ensure Wyoming agriculture continues to thrive for years to come.

With his decades of service to our State, as well as the numerous accolades and accomplishments that he has received, it goes without saying that he is absolutely worthy of the honor of being inducted into the Wyoming Agriculture Hall of Fame. I am so pleased that Ron will be joining the likes of so many others who have done so much for agriculture in our state. His legacy is something to behold and appreciate. I tip my hat to him.●

TRIBUTE TO JOHN W. KENNEDY

● Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the tireless efforts of one man to protect and defend the beating heart of the American economy: our manufacturing industry. Over a long career of service, Mr. John W. Kennedy of Madison, NJ, has advocated for greater prosperity and economic security in the Garden State. In particular, I want to thank Mr. Kennedy's outstanding work at the New Jersey Manufacturing Extension Program, or NJMEP.

Since 2012, Mr. Kennedy has led NJMEP, first as chief operating officer and then as chief executive officer, working to advance their mission of providing U.S. manufacturers with the resources they need to succeed. Supported by the National Institute of Standards and Technology, NJMEP has spread innovative technologies and best practices across New Jersey, boosting operational excellence, innovation and growth, and workforce development.

Studies have shown that for every dollar invested into NJMEP, they have in turn generated over \$13 of added value. This remarkable return on investment goes hand in hand with the mission-oriented focus of the program which seeks to serve those who serve others. Today, Garden State residents can thank NJMEP for creating hundreds of thousands of highly skilled manufacturing jobs and contributing more than \$7 billion in economic value.

Make no mistake, NJMEP has been able to succeed thanks to Mr. Kennedy's shining leadership. When his colleagues speak of him, the first thing they mention is his signature emails fired off every morning at 5:30 AM. This unflagging work ethic and unbridled passion for improving the lives of those around him is an inspiration to us all. He is the reason that NJMEP was able to grow from a 12-person operation to a well-oiled machine of more than 50 employees, catapulting it as the top-rated manufacturing extension program in the country.

Three years ago, when the first COVID wave reached our shores, John

and NJMEP were swift in identifying critical actions that governments could take to shield manufacturers from bearing the brunt of the impact. Whether it was prioritizing the health and equipment needs of frontline workers or advocating for manufacturers to be properly deemed as essential businesses, John's expertise and decisive leadership was invaluable.

In a similar way, Mr. Kennedy was immensely involved when Congress was drafting the CHIPS and Science Act last year. He provided strategic clarity about how to best protect and secure our domestic and international supply chains, the lifeblood of our Nation's economy. Thanks to him and his insightful recommendations, we included provisions in the bill that established a National Supply Chain Database, a landmark program that accurately tracks American manufacturing capabilities and inventories in real time. Because of John, our economy is now more secure against not only global pandemics, but also natural disasters, cyberattacks, foreign adversaries, and a myriad of other threats.

Beyond his professional career, Mr. Kennedy takes time to give back to the community. Prior to serving at NJMEP, he founded and sold two manufacturing businesses which provided him firsthand knowledge of the sector. He has also served on the local and national executive board for the Boy Scouts, the New Jersey Special Olympics, and the board of directors of the Park Avenue Club Foundation.

Today, I join his loving wife Cecelia, their son Sean, and all New Jerseyans in congratulating Mr. John W. Kennedy on his storied career and selfless service. Thanks to his dedicated leadership, not only has our economy created untold prosperity, we have also secured that prosperity for future generations. He is a shining example of why "Made in the USA" and "Made in New Jersey" are the best labels in the world.●

TRIBUTE TO PHYLLIS SALOWE-KAYE

● Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to recognize and celebrate Mrs. Phyllis Salowe-Kaye, an exemplary leader in New Jersey and a lifelong advocate for social and economic justice.

Born and raised in Bradley Beach, Mrs. Salowe-Kaye graduated from Asbury Park High School and received her bachelor of arts in education from Boston University. In college, she began staging her first political actions: demonstrating against the Vietnam war and starting a "food fight" to protest poor cafeteria options. After earning her diploma, Phyllis began a teaching career in the city of Newark, ultimately rising to become a leader in the Newark Teachers Union.

It was in this role advocating for better conditions on behalf of her fellow educators that a fire was lit inside her.

After nearly a decade as an elementary school teacher, she transitioned to organizing for more affordable housing. First as president of the tenant association in her building, then with the local tenants association in the city of Orange, and finally as head of the New Jersey Tenants Organization, Mrs. Salowe-Kaye's commitment to social activism and public advocacy was formed.

For the last 35 years, Mrs. Salowe-Kaye has capably led New Jersey Citizen Action—NJCA—the Garden State's largest and oldest multi-issue nonprofit organization. As a champion for fairness and justice, she has brought to the forefront many of the quality-of-life issues that are most important to New Jersey's residents. From healthcare to housing, environmental protections to a living wage, Mrs. Salowe-Kaye has consistently marshalled the full force of her organization's 60,000 members to move the needle on issues and push our State forward.

Of her many crowning achievements, she has successfully leveraged the Federal Community Reinvestment Act to secure more than \$30 billion in commitments from local banks. These commitments have opened doors of opportunities for thousands of low-income families, women, and minorities who have been able to access financial tools including housing counseling, affordable mortgages, and more.

In addition to her public advocacy and leadership in civil society, Mrs. Salowe-Kaye has sat on too many councils, boards, and task forces to list. However, among other roles, she has proudly served as a trustee of the Teacher's Pension and Annuity Fund, a commissioner for New Jersey's Public Broadcasting Authority, and a member of the Federal Reserve Community Advisory Council during the Obama administration.

In 2012, I was honored to recognize her work by presenting her with a Trailblazer Award at my annual Women's History Month celebration. Since then, not only has she continued to demonstrate visionary leadership, genuine care, and selfless commitment, she has also grown the reach and influence of New Jersey Citizen Action. For this and for all she has done to distinguish herself as a passionate leader, I am honored to recognize her with these remarks which will live on forever in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Today, I join her loving husband of 47 years, Mr. Stewart Kaplowitz; her children Joanna and Zachary; and her three grandchildren in thanking Mrs. Phyllis Salowe-Kaye for her lifelong service as a community leader who has never stopped fighting for a better New Jersey for all.●

NICODEMUS, KANSAS, 145TH HOMECOMING EMANCIPATION CELEBRATION

● Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, this weekend, in the town of Nicodemus in

western Kansas, folks from all over will gather to celebrate and commemorate the history of this town. This year they will celebrate the 145th Homecoming Emancipation Celebration.

Nicodemus holds a unique place in American history. In 1877, newly freed slaves migrated West determined to create a community where freedom and equality could flourish. Out of the resolve of those early settlers emerged Nicodemus. Nicodemus was the first Black community west of the Mississippi River and is the only predominantly Black community west of the Mississippi that remains a living community today. Far from other towns or the railroad, life in Nicodemus wasn't easy, but the early settlers were determined to build a life for themselves—farms, homes, and a community that was their own.

The Homecoming Emancipation Celebration serves as a poignant reminder of the significance of the Emancipation Proclamation, a proclamation that shattered the shackles of slavery and ignited the spark of hope and liberty across the Nation. Throughout the years, the Homecoming Emancipation Celebration has been a time of reflection, remembrance, and unity. Families gather to pay homage to their ancestors and cherish the sacrifices made by those who sought a new life and new opportunities.

The celebration this weekend is a time for grandparents to pass down stories and memories to the younger generations, ensuring that the legacy of Nicodemus lives on in the hearts and minds of all. I hope that this celebration is a chance to remember the history of Nicodemus and celebrate the men and women who bravely made the journey west to find a place of their own.

I hope anyone passing through western Kansas will take time to visit Nicodemus to learn the history of this brave little town on the plains of Kansas.●

RECOGNIZING THE STOCKTON LIONS CLUB

● Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, today I come to the Senate floor to pay tribute to the Stockton Lions Club and recognize their contributions to the community. This organization has been a part of the community since the 1950s, and its presence will be missed.

Lions Club International is the world's largest service organization, with more than 1.42 million members and 47,000 clubs in over 200 countries. In Kansas, 216 clubs serve various community needs. The international focus of the Lions Club is helping the visually impaired or blind. This cause came from Helen Keller at the International Convention at Cedar Point, OH, in June of 1925. She challenged the Lions to be the "Knights of the Blind." From holding eyeglass drop-offs in the community, to paying for eye appointments and glasses, the Stockton Lions Club answered this challenge.