

TRIBUTE TO JOHN MCKENZIE

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the career and achievements of John McKenzie, owner of the McKenzie Apartment Company. Throughout his career, John has fused together his work in home construction with his passion for community service to establish the next generation of leaders in the housing industry.

Born and raised in Madison, WI, John got his start in business working with his father in real estate. After graduating from UW-Madison as a business major in 1971, he began his career in real estate development around the country, working from Cincinnati to San Francisco. In 1989, he returned to Madison where he had a significant impact on the region's real estate development and revitalization. During this period, he cofounded his family business, the McKenzie Apartment Company.

John is somebody who takes deep pride in his work, creating both homes and opportunities to improve the lives of others. With this mission, John began working with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Dane County. He recognized that, by working with the Boys and Girls Club, he could have a remarkable and lasting impact on the community by introducing skilled trades to the young people in the program. Having been a Madison Area Builders Association—MABA—member for 30 years, John connected the Boys and Girls Club with the MABA, and a lasting partnership has resulted.

In collaboration with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Dane County and the Madison Area Builders Association, John raised the significant funds needed to build and sustain a facility that provides space for youth ranging from elementary school to high school to participate in introductory trade activities. This year, the McKenzie Regional Workforce Center opened to train and connect a new generation of young people of diverse backgrounds to the skilled trades. A first-of-its-kind project for the Boys and Girls Clubs of America and a National Association of Home Builders—NAHB—affiliated local home builders association, the center will serve as a national template, preparing young people in Dane County for quality, family-sustaining jobs at a time when the skilled trades are facing a labor shortage. Due to John's innovative idea, a national movement was sparked to partner local Boys and Girls Clubs with the construction industry around the Nation. John's impact will be felt nationwide through 10 local partnerships that began in 2023 and another 20 beginning in 2024.

With John's persistence, leadership and dedication to his community, he has impacted so many lives in our State. I am so pleased to join others in recognizing his success and accomplishments. I wish him and his family all the best and applaud his continued efforts in the skilled trades.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRANE FOUNDATION

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I rise to recognize the International Crane Foundation's 50th anniversary. I am delighted to recognize this global conservation organization with Wisconsin origins.

While the efforts of the International Crane Foundation now reach across the world, its story began in 1971 at Cornell University. This was where two ornithology students, Ron Sauey and George Archibald, bonded over their shared appreciation for cranes. They imagined an organization that could combine their work on captive breeding, research, restoration, and education to protect the 15 different crane species on Earth. In 1973, Sauey and Archibald's vision became a reality when the International Crane Foundation was founded out of the Sauey family farm in Baraboo, WI.

Over the last 50 years, the foundation has used dynamic methods and community-oriented approaches to conserve cranes and the ecosystems, watersheds, and flyways they depend on. The foundation fosters the international cooperation of crane protection by providing knowledge, leadership, and inspiration to people in the communities where cranes live, engaging them to resolve threats to these birds and the landscapes they call home.

Today the International Crane Foundation has grown to a staff of more than 125 people, with a network of hundreds of specialists in over 50 countries on the five continents where cranes live. The organization moved from the humble Sauey farm where it was born, to a nearly 300-acre headquarters in Baraboo, complete with live crane exhibits, guided tours, a research library, and 4 miles of nature trails. While the reach of the foundation has greatly extended over the past 50 years, their mission remains the same: to protect and restore wild crane populations and the landscapes they depend on.

On the 50th anniversary of this remarkable organization, I am proud to recognize the International Crane Foundation and look forward to its continued success and conservation efforts.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING LUTHERIDGE FARMS

• Mr. BUDD. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Lutheridge Farm and celebrate its nearly six decades of success.

In 1965, brothers Ted and Ben Luther purchased the land where they established the family-owned dairy operation today known as Lutheridge Farm. For many years, Ted, his wife Dot, Ben, and his wife Margaret worked diligently to grow the farm from a single cow to a herd of about 150 cattle. Word of their ranch began to

spread, and in 1981, they were named the Farm Family of the Year by their soil and water conservation district. Due to their love of Jersey cows, the family became involved in the American Jersey Cattle Association, with Ted ultimately being presented its National Distinguished Service Award in 2006 after many years of service as its president and member of its board of directors.

After Ted passed away in 2013, the cattle operation began to wind down. However, desiring to keep the family business alive, his children purchased Ben's shares of the farm to keep it running for a new generation. Richard Luther and his wife Robin, along with Leigh Anne Wetmore and her husband Mark, worked to continue the legacy of their father and uncle. Ted's grandson Steven Wetmore returned to the family farm to manage the operation with his wife Kira, where they were joined by his cousins Jonathan and Lauren Luther. This new generation of family farmers revived the ranch and diligently worked to expand the operation. In 2016, they began selling dairy to local, family-owned cheese manufacturers.

Although the family has recently decided to downsize the operation due to rising costs, the family still provides fresh dairy to families across the region. Bottled milk, both white and chocolate, is delivered to local markets in Rowan, Iredell, Cabarrus, Davidson, and Davie Counties.

Please join me in celebrating Lutheridge Farm's many years of success. Small businesses are the backbone of our Nation's economy, and it is family operations like Lutheridge Farm that enrich communities for years to come.●

RECOGNIZING THE 2023 ROWAN LITTLE LEAGUE 10U SOFTBALL TEAM

• Mr. BUDD. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the members of the 2023 Rowan Little League 10u Softball team for their recent victory in the Southeast regional championship. After winning the North Carolina State Championship, the team was provided the opportunity to compete in the highest competition in the 10u system. Over the regional championship weekend in late July, coaches Brett and Jacqueline Mulkey and Greg Deal took the 12-member team to Clarksville, TN, where the Rowan team demonstrated the hard work and sportsmanship its members had developed throughout the entire season. The teamwork and dedication put in by Graci Cooper, Zoey Correll, Peyton Mulkey, Stella Drew Smith, Abby Miller, Harper Deal, Jaylee Nixon, Jenna Smith, Kristen Johnson, Jaklyn Cottone, Kallie Clawson, and Nelson Leonard bring pride to their entire Rowan County community.

Please join me in congratulating the 2023 Rowan Little League 10u Softball

All-Stars on their remarkable accomplishment and wishing them many future successes.●

RECOGNIZING KPI CONCEPTS

● Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week it is my privilege to recognize KPI Concepts of West Burlington, IA as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

KPI Concepts was founded by Craig Upton in 1984 out of his garage in Burlington, IA, building cabinetry for local businesses. Two years later, KPI Concepts moved to a 4,200 square foot building with a workshop. The original building was expanded to 42,000 square feet between 1986 and 2006, and in 2007, they purchased an additional 65,000-square-foot location. The second location expanded a few years later. After starting as a commercial cabinetry business, they evolved to manufacture wind turbine blade components in 2008 with the KPI Composites division. In 2013, they added a west coast location in Hurricane, UT, while maintaining their West Burlington headquarters. Over the years, KPI Concepts has grown to include the KPI Metals division as well.

Craig Upton attributes his success to his father and the Southeastern Community College for his successful business career. After graduating from Burlington High School in 1973, he went on to attend Southeastern Community College where he earned an associate's degree in mechanical technology. He later went on to work as a design draftsman, welder, and in the data processing department. When he lost his job, his father, who had a passion for woodworking, urged Craig to pursue his dream and start KPI Concepts. Because he pursued his dreams, KPI Concepts celebrated its 39th business anniversary in 2023.

In addition to being the president and founder of KPI Concepts, Craig Upton gives back to the community. In 2014, he was recognized by Southeastern Community College with the Distinguished Alumnus Award. Earning further accolades, the KPI Metals team was awarded the Manufacturer of the Year Award by the Greater Burlington Partnership in 2017.

KPI Concept's commitment to providing high-quality commercial cabinetry, wind turbine parts, and metal manufacturing services to customers throughout the United States while maintaining their Iowa roots is clear. I want to congratulate Craig Upton and the entire team at KPI Concepts for their continued dedication to providing industrial services to Iowans. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success in Iowa.●

RECOGNIZING JEFFERSON COLLEGE

● Mr. SCHMITT. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Jefferson College in Hillsboro, MO, for 60 years of academic excellence and accomplishment.

Founded in 1963, Jefferson College is the "Jewel of Jefferson County." The college has contributed to the development and progress of Jefferson County and the surrounding region, equipping thousands of students each year with the tools to be successful in a variety of academic disciplines. The college's programs are instrumental in raising up the next generation of teachers, police officers, nurses, and citizens. The college remains devoted to providing high-quality academics at an affordable price, making it a great option for students in any stage of life. Communities are built upon the collaboration of men and women who have been properly trained in their designated fields, and Jefferson College continues to assemble communities of qualified workers and strengthen Missouri as a whole.

I ask my Senate colleagues to join me in recognizing Jefferson College's diamond anniversary, 60 years of scholarship. I hope all my colleagues will join me in celebrating the important work being done at Jefferson College and all the work it will accomplish in the future.●

TRIBUTE TO LAND TAWNEY

● Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize a great Montanan, and a national champion for our access to public lands.

For his entire life, Land Tawney has fought to ensure that every Montanan and every American is able to experience the joys that our rivers, streams, and public lands have to offer. For the last 10 years he has led this charge from the helm of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, an organization that was once volunteer based and local, but is now a leading advocacy group for hunters and anglers in 48 States and two Canadian provinces. But unfortunately for us, Land recently announced that he will be leaving Backcountry Hunters and Anglers for greener pastures and wider trails.

While I am sure that we haven't heard the last of Land Tawney he will certainly be missed by many Montanans and sportsmen and women across the Nation. In his tenure as president and CEO, Land was able to grow BHA to a community with more than half a million members. He played a key role in helping pass my Great American Outdoors Act and permanently reauthorizing and fully funding the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

I am proud to call Land a friend, but more importantly, I am proud of the things we have accomplished in Congress with the support of Land and the BHA. He is a fierce advocate for preserving access. He is a builder of broad

coalitions. And he is someone that you always want on your team.

I am going to miss Land at BHA, but I am looking forward to seeing what is next.

Thank you, Land.●

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF KOCH ENTERPRISES

● Mr. YOUNG. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Koch Enterprises, a fifth-generation Hoosier company, on its 150th anniversary.

Founded in 1873 as a tin shop, the Evansville-based company now employs more than 2,600 people in 13 States and four countries. The George Koch Tin Shop stayed afloat in the early years by doing repairs and manufacturing cookware, but soon, the business grew and diversified. When George Koch died in 1903, his three sons took over and renamed the business George Koch Sons. During World War II, the company supported the war effort by building a new manufacturing facility and fabricating parts for LST ships and aircraft wings and engines. In 1999, the company reorganized to Koch Enterprises, Inc. The organization currently has eight subsidiaries and is the ninth largest private company in Indiana.

Koch Enterprises' core values include integrity, respect for people, customer focus, continuous improvement, and community involvement. Indeed, the Evansville area and the State of Indiana as a whole has benefited from that spirit of community involvement. Koch employees are encouraged to volunteer for local charities and have logged more than 20,000 hours annually in recent years. Additionally, company Chairman Bob Koch has been a driving force behind the completion of Interstate 69 and helped establish Signature School, which is consistently ranked as one of the top high schools in the country.

It is my honor to congratulate the Koch family, the company's leadership, and the thousands of Koch employees who have contributed to our State over the years.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Stringer, 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.)

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with