

ERICKSONSEDERSTROM,
ATTORNEYS AT LAW,

July 25, 2023.

Re Response to Letter Dated July 11, 2023, to
Robin P. Arkley, II, Our File No.:
00018.010802.

Hon. RICHARD DURBIN,
*Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee, U.S.
Senate, Washington, DC.*

Hon. SHELDON WHITEHOUSE,
*Chairman, Subcommittee on Federal Courts
Oversights, Agency Action and Federal
Rights, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN DURBIN AND SENATOR
WHITEHOUSE: We write this letter on behalf
of Robin P. Arkley, II in response to your
letter dated July 11, 2023, which requested in-
formation concerning Mr. Arkley's inter-
actions with Supreme Court Justices. While
we respect the Senate Committee's oversight
role, we believe that this inquiry exceeds the
limits placed on the legislature by the Con-
stitution. For our stated reasons, we refer
you to the relevant portions of the letter
dated July 25, 2023, from Baker & Hostetler
directed to you on behalf of Mr. Leo.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

SAMUEL E. CLARK.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I yield the floor.
I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tem-
pore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk
proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unan-
imous consent that the order for the
quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr.
OSSOFF). Without objection, it is so or-
dered.

MORNING BUSINESS

HONORING LAVERNE PARRISH

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, today I
would like to honor the life and service
of a distinguished Montanan and one of
Montana's five World War II Medal of
Honor recipients: Technician Fourth
Grade Laverne Parrish.

Laverne and his family moved to the
Mission Valley of Montana in 1934, and
he graduated from Ronan High School in
1937. Never one to shy away from
service or sacrifice, Laverne joined the
Washington Army National Guard in
the March of 1941, just months before
the attack on Pearl Harbor. He served
as a medical aidman in Company C of
the 161st Infantry Regiment where he
achieved the rank of technician fourth
grade, the noncommissioned officer
equivalent of sergeant.

In August of 1942, his Army National
Guard unit was activated and deployed
to Hawaii for training. Soon after, his
unit was mobilized and deployed to the
Pacific Theater with the 25th Infantry
Division. Known as "Tropic Lightning"
for specializing in jungle warfare, his
division saw combat in five different
military campaigns, moving from Gua-
dalcanal, to the Northern Solomon Is-
lands, and eventually joining General
MacArthur's campaign to recapture
the Philippines.

In January of 1945, his division land-
ed on the island of Luzon in the Phil-

ippines. During heavy fighting in
Binalonan, Laverne risked his life
rushing onto the battlefield to bring in
his wounded brother in arms to safety.
While treating casualties, he noticed
two wounded soldiers from his com-
pany still in the field. Without hesi-
tation, he crawled back onto the bat-
tlefield amidst intense enemy fire to
successfully rescue both men.

Six days later, under withering
enemy fire, Laverne's unit was ordered
to withdraw to the cover of a ditch.
Seeing two wounded soldiers unable to
move, Laverne quickly left his position
and pulled them to safety. In that same
field, he also delivered aid to 12 casual-
ties, crossing and recrossing an open
area raked by enemy fire in the process
and finally bringing an additional
three men who were critically wounded
back to the unit.

Shortly after treating nearly all 37 of
the casualties suffered by his company,
Laverne was mortally wounded by mor-
tar fire and died on the battlefield, just
6 months before the war ended. He was
26 years old, and his body was returned
to Montana, where he was laid to eter-
nal rest at the Mountain View Ceme-
tery in Ronan. While Laverne passed,
the story of the heroic "Montana
Medic" quickly spread through the
25th Infantry Division as they bravely
carried on facing more continuous
combat than any other Infantry Divi-
sion in the 6th Army.

Laverne pitted heroism and bravery
against great odds, saving the lives of
many of his fellow soldiers at the cost
of his own. In honor of his incredible
bravery and sacrifice, Laverne was
awarded the Medal of Honor by Presi-
dent Harry S. Truman, our Nation's
highest military awarded to the men
and women in uniform who have gone
above and beyond protecting our free-
doms. He was one of just six medical
corpsman to receive this honor in
World War II, and the six were credited
with saving the lives of more than 150
military personnel.

In the fall of 1948, the town of Ronan
came together to honor Laverne by
naming the athletic field the Sergeant
Laverne Parrish Memorial Field. Nam-
ing this field in Laverne's honor was a
small token of our appreciation for his
heroic service and sacrifice, but it en-
sured he will be remembered genera-
tion after generation in Ronan—and all
across the Treasure State.

Seventy-five years later, Laverne's
memory lives on in each of us—in the
freedoms of our children, our children's
children, and right here with us on this
football field.

On behalf of myself and a grateful na-
tion, I commend Mr. Laverne Parrish
and extend our deepest appreciation to
him. He is a true patriot who made
Montana proud, and we will never for-
get him.

Today and every day, let us remem-
ber that we are standing here today, in
a free country, because of Laverne, the
sacrifices he made, and the sacrifices of
our military men and women have
made every generation since.

TRIBUTE TO PETTY OFFICER FIRST CLASS DUANE B. PEARSON

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I rise
today to honor Navy Petty Officer
First Class Duane B. Pearson. HM1
Duane Pearson originally hailed from
the Bronx, NY, and as an Army family,
he moved throughout the Nation; in
Lawton, OK, he decided to enlist in the
U.S. Navy and follow his family history
of military service.

His initial oath was in November 2001
in Oklahoma City, OK; he completed
Navy boot camp and Hospital Corps
School in Great Lakes, IL, and went on
to Expeditionary Medical Facility
Training, Cherry Point, NC, and Phys-
ical Therapy Technician School, San
Antonio, TX, where he was also pro-
moted to third class petty officer.

His enlisted assignments include
Naval Hospital Cherry Point, NC; Na-
tional Naval Medical Center Bethesda,
MD, where he was deployed to Camp
Lemmonier to Djibouti, Africa; Naval
Hospital Yokosuka, Japan; and the Of-
fice of Attending Physician, Wash-
ington, DC.

While at the Office of Attending Phy-
sician, he continued providing expert
physical therapy services, but also
managed an emergency response med-
ical call center, and provided advanced
cardiac life support response to mul-
tiple Nation special security events, in-
cluding three Presidential inaugura-
tions, nine State of the Union Address-
es, seven Peace Officers Memorials, and
scores of gold medal ceremonies and
summer concerts. Additionally, he was
instrumental in administering over
30,000 Covid vaccines in direct support
of both the Supreme Court of the
United States, and U.S. Congress.

His military decorations include the
Navy and Marine Corps Commendation
Medal, Navy and Marine Corps
Achievement Medal, Joint Meritorious
Unit Award, Navy Unit Commendation,
Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation,
Armed Forces Service Medal, Humanitar-
ian Service Medal, and various
other personal and unit awards.

His military career has been success-
ful because of the support and con-
fidence of Jasmine, his wife and best
friend of 18 years. He also has two sup-
portive children, who are both talented
athletes—Micah and Imani.

In May 2019, he received his bachelor
of arts Degree, with honors, from
Southern Illinois University in
healthcare management and will com-
plete his master's in healthcare admin-
istration from the University of Balti-
more this December.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE HISTORIC WESTSIDE SCHOOL

• Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President,
I rise today to commemorate the cen-
tennial celebration of the Historic
Westside School in Las Vegas, NV. This

school holds a special place in the history of Las Vegas and is a symbol of resilience, education, and strength in this community.

The Historic Westside School's story began in 1923 when it opened its doors as the Las Vegas Grammar School No. 1, consisting of just two rooms. Over the years, this unassuming structure played a significant role in the history of Las Vegas, particularly in the city's Black community.

Initially established to serve local Paiute children, the school's purpose evolved as the Black American population in Las Vegas grew substantially. With the opening of the Gunnery Range, known today as Nellis Air Force Base, and the construction of the Hoover Dam, the population of Las Vegas expanded dramatically. During this period, the school primarily educated Black children, reflecting the changing demographics of the city.

It is important to acknowledge the discrimination and persecution the Black community suffered during this era. In a stark reminder of the racial prejudice that stained our Nation, the city of Las Vegas forced Black families to move to the Westside and refused to allow the renewal of Black-owned business licenses unless they relocated. Despite this, the Westside School became a symbol of hope and perseverance for the Black community as it provided education and opportunity.

As the city of Las Vegas eventually moved towards desegregation, the school was closed. However, in 1979, the significance of the Historic Westside School was formally recognized when it was listed in the National Register of Historic Places. This designation highlighted the school's historical importance and its role in shaping the local community and preserving the heritage of the Westside of Las Vegas.

In 2015, the city of Las Vegas, with the assistance of Federal funds, embarked on a commendable effort to restore this historic landmark. Today, the Historic Westside School has been transformed into a vibrant community center, home to KCEP-FM and the Economic Opportunity Board, and a hub for various charitable foundations. It is a testament to the resilience of our community and the commitment to preserving our history.

As we celebrate the centennial of the Historic Westside School, let us reflect on the enduring legacy of this institution and its importance in shaping the history of Las Vegas. It serves as a reminder of the progress we have made in the fight for equality and the importance of preserving our history, no matter how challenging the chapters may be.

I commend the city of Las Vegas and the Historic Westside School Alumni Association for their dedication to preserving the memory of this historic school and for organizing the centennial celebration. It truly is an opportunity for our community to come together, learn from our past, and work

toward a brighter future where equality and opportunity are accessible to all.●

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. Today, KPI Concepts is focused on providing innovative products to the wind energy industry. Throughout this history of business growth, the company's employees have been instrumental to its success.

As with many founders, Craig's journey to founding KPI Concepts had many chapters. 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. In addition to being the Founder of KPI Concepts, Craig Upton has given back to the community. In 2014, he was recognized by Southeastern Community College with the Distinguished Alumnus Award.

The KPI Concept's team has been awarded for their contributions to the industrial services industry. The KPI Metals team was awarded the Manufacturer of the Year Award by the Greater Burlington Partnership in 2017. Due to the hard work and dedication of the KPI Concepts employees, they celebrated their 39th business anniversary in 2023.

KPI Concept's commitment to providing high-quality wind turbine parts, commercial cabinetry, and metal manufacturing services to customers throughout the United States while maintaining their Iowa roots is clear. I want to congratulate 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 100 YEARS OF MOTT COMMUNITY COLLEGE

● Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Mott Community College located in Flint, MI. Over the past 100 years, MCC has become a steadfast partner for local industry, providing high-quality, accessible, and affordable education opportunities. It is a privilege and honor to recognize the centennial milestone of the college on September 23, 2023.

Founded in 1923 by the Flint Board of Education, the institution was originally known as Flint Junior College. Tuition for the first year was a mere \$20, and students could choose to study general literacy, pre-engineering, pre-dental, pre-medicine, pre-law, or business administration, as the college was initially designed to prepare students to transfer to the University of Michigan Ann Arbor.

In 1950, Charles Stewart Mott donated \$1 million to develop Flint Junior College into a 4-year institution in collaboration with the University of Michigan, a move that created the college and cultural center. C.S. Mott endowed the college with 32 acres of land and additional money for the establishment of an entirely new campus. In 1951, William Ballenger, Sr., left a trust of several million dollars, allowing the college to hire well-qualified instructors and elevate Flint Junior College into a true community college. Ballenger also gifted the college \$200,000 for the construction of an athletic field house. The Ballenger Field House would become the first new building on the new campus.

In 1969, the college was successful in securing a millage, transforming it into a countywide institution, becoming Genesee Community College. After the passing of C.S. Mott, the institution received its name known by the community today, the Charles Stewart Mott Community College.

The college has a rich athletic history as well. Coach Steven Schmidt has led the men's basketball team to 753 victories over 30 seasons, the most by any men's coach in Michigan college basketball history. The program finished fifth in the Nation in 2021 and has won three national titles since 2007. The college is also where Justus Thigpen, Sr., the first athlete from Flint to play in the NBA, got his start as the basketball team's starting guard in 1965. Mott currently hosts five varsity men's sports teams, four varsity women's teams, and a co-ed e-sports team.

Today, MCC serves over 8,000 students seeking to gain knowledge and skills in a wide variety of occupational programs. Mott Community College continues to be a key partner that delivers on the workforce development