

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

needs of the region through continual innovation and investment in their students' success. By creating programs such as the Mobile Learning Lab, Workforce Promise, and the operation of Applewood Cafe, the college has seized every opportunity to support the economic development in Flint by providing workforce training and experience to students and workers.

The college is also a leader in expanding diversity, equity, and inclusion in higher education. From the hiring of Dr. Beverly Walker-Griffea in 2014, its first African-American female president, to the building of the Lenore Croudy Family Life Center, which is focused on providing support to students and families experiencing housing and food insecurity, the college continually works to reduce barriers and challenges by investing in their students. MCC has also been chosen for the Aspen Institute Award six times as one of the top 150 community colleges in the Nation dedicated to excellence and equitable student success.

Mott Community College has greatly impacted the lives of generations of students and has positively shaped the city of Flint as we know it today. I ask you to join me in recognizing the college as they commemorate their centennial celebration.●

TRIBUTE TO GABRIELLE INDIA ASIAG

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Gabrielle India Asiag, a spring and summer 2023 intern with my Orlando office, for the hard work she has done for my office and the people of Florida.

Gabrielle is currently studying at the University of Central Florida, where she is completing a bachelor's degree in psychology. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who was devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I extend my deepest gratitude to Gabrielle for her work with my office, and I look forward to hearing of her successes in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS MATTHEW BATURA

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Thomas Matthew Batura, a summer 2023 intern with my Orlando office, for the hard work he has done for my office and the people of Florida.

Thomas is currently studying at the University of Central Florida, where he is completing a master's degree in public administration. He is a dedicated and diligent worker who was devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I extend my deepest gratitude to Thomas for his work with my office, and I look forward to hearing of his successes in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO BENNETT AARON BERT

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Bennett Aaron Bert, a summer 2023 intern with my Orlando office, for the hard work he has done for my office and the people of Florida.

Bennett is currently studying at the Catholic University of America, where he is completing a bachelor's degree in politics with a minor in business. He is a dedicated and diligent worker who was devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I extend my deepest gratitude to Bennett for his work with my office, and I look forward to hearing of his successes in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO GABRIELA SOFIA BRAVO

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Gabriela Sofia Bravo, a summer 2023 intern with my Orlando office, for the hard work she has done for my office and the people of Florida.

Gabriela is currently studying at the University of Central Florida, where she is completing a bachelor's degree in political science with an emphasis in intelligence and national security, as well as a minor in international and global studies. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who was devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I extend my deepest gratitude to Gabriela for her work with my office, and I look forward to hearing of her successes in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO VICMARIE PALOMARES-COLON

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Vicmarie Palomares-Colon, a summer 2023 intern with my Orlando office, for the hard work she has done for my office and the people of Florida.

Vicmarie is currently studying at the University of Central Florida, where she is completing a bachelor's degree in legal studies. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who was devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I extend my deepest gratitude to Vicmarie for her work with my office, and I look forward to hearing of her successes in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO FIONA FERRERO

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Fiona Ferrero, a spring and summer 2023 intern with my Orlando office, for the hard work she has done for my office and the people of Florida.

Fiona is currently studying at Ocoee High School. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who was devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I extend my deepest gratitude to Fiona for her work with my office, and I look forward to hearing of her successes in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO ETHAN FOLKMAN

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Ethan Craig Folkman, a summer 2023 intern with my Gulf Coast regional office, for the hard work he has done for my office and the people of Florida.

Ethan is currently a student at Boston College, where he is majoring in political science. He is a dedicated and diligent worker who was devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I extend my deepest gratitude to Ethan for his work with my office during these challenging times, and I look forward to hearing of his continued good work in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO PABLO ELIAS FORTICH

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Pablo Elias Fortich, a summer 2023 intern with my Orlando office, for the hard work he has done for my office and the people of Florida.

Pablo is currently studying at the University of Central Florida, where he is completing a bachelor's degree in political science with a concentration in national security and intelligence. He is a dedicated and diligent worker who was devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I extend my deepest gratitude to Pablo for his work with my office, and I look forward to hearing of his successes in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO RHYAN FURDA

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Rhyan Furda, a summer 2023 intern with my Orlando office, for the hard work she has done for my office and the people of Florida.

Rhyan is currently studying at Colorado State University, where she is completing a bachelor's degree in political science with a minor in business administration. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who was devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I extend my deepest gratitude to Rhyan for her work with my office, and I look forward to hearing of her successes in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO XIMENA RAFAELA HAKIME

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Ximena Rafaela Hakime, a summer 2023 intern with my Orlando office, for the hard work she has done for my office and the people of Florida.

Ximena is currently studying at the University of Central Florida, where she is completing a bachelor's degree in political science. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who was devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I extend my deepest gratitude to Ximena for her work with my office, and I look forward to hearing of her successes in the years to come.●