

Arkansas can be proud of his advocacy and leadership that integrally contributed to the United States' ability to maintain our military superiority.

On behalf of the U.S. Senate and a grateful nation, I extend my deepest appreciation to Lieutenant General Moorhead for his many years of exemplary military service and sacrifice. I wish him nothing but the very best in the future.●

#### TRIBUTE TO McAVOY LAYNE

● Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize the legacy of McAvoy Layne. Mr. Layne has dedicated 35 years of his life to promoting art and literature to audiences across Nevada. After more than 4,000 performances as one of the premier Mark Twain impersonators, Mr. Layne will share his legendary charm with audiences for one last time at Piper's Opera House, in historic Virginia City, NV, on September 30, 2023.

As a lifelong Nevadan, I always appreciate our State's history and those who tell and preserve it. Samuel Langhorne Clemens became Mark Twain while residing in Nevada between the years 1861 and 1864. It was in this 3-year span that Mark Twain's career set off, writing for "Territorial Enterprise" in Virginia City and inspiring the novel "Roughing It," which helped introduce Nevada to the world.

McAvoy Layne moved to Tahoe's North Shore 40 years ago when he was offered a job at Diamond Peak Ski Resort. He has lived there ever since, and it was there he discovered his calling to impersonate and educate people about one of America's best-known authors, Mark Twain.

Mr. Layne began his career as a Twain impersonator at Piper's Opera House in Virginia City, NV, performing two shows a day, 6 days a week in the summer of 1988. Over the years, he specialized in school programs, visiting schools across the United States, Europe, and Russia. He would sometimes visit 10 schools a week, performing for students of all ages. Countless Nevadans can recall stories of Mr. Layne visiting their school as Mark Twain.

Highlights of Mr. Layne's career include winning the Nevada Award for Excellence in School and Library Service, playing the ghost of Samuel Clemens in the Biography Channel's episode on Mark Twain, and participating in the Discovery Channel's Cronkite Award-winning documentary, "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn."

Mr. Layne is not just an actor but a writer, educator, storyteller, and a Nevada icon. September 30 will mark the end of an era as he takes the stage one last time in the place where it all began. It is important to ensure future generations understand Nevada's history, and I would like to thank Mr. Layne for his service in educating us about the legendary Samuel Clemens.●

#### REMEMBERING ALLISON KENNEDY

● Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, earlier this year, we lost a treasured consumer, public health and safety advocate. Allison Kennedy passed away on May 10, 2023, after suffering a brain aneurysm. She was 36 years old. A devoted mother, beloved wife, and cherished daughter, Allison was full of life and love.

Allison was born in Visalia, CA in February 1987. Although Allison was an only child, she grew up surrounded and supported by her large and loving extended family in Washington, anchored by her Nana and major role model Nita King. Life for Allison revolved around her family. She loved her grandfather Jim beyond words. She especially loved the precious time she spent with her father outdoors or working on household projects together, even FaceTiming her dad 3,000 miles away to help her put a table together. She loved traveling with her family, including to the off-road races in Baja, especially with her Uncle David.

She attended Washington State University, graduating in 2010, and received her master's degree from American University in Washington, DC, in 2014.

After starting her graduate studies at Washington State University, she began a 3-month internship in Washington, DC. Within weeks of moving to DC, she fell in love with the city, the politics, and a man named Brian. Their love started on their first date as they sat talking in her apartment until 3 in the morning. Allison and Brian were engaged in December 2014 and married in November 2015. They first lived in Northeast Washington, D.C., then moved to Maryland in 2019, and finally found their dream home in Burke, VA, in 2022.

Allison longed to be a mother. Allison and Brian tried for nearly 5 years. In 2021, they received the gift of Christopher "Kit" Colm, through adoption, who blessed their home with the fullness of love and joy. Allison thrived as a mother. In every way, she knew how to care for Kit and help him blossom. In 2022, Brian and Allison found out they were pregnant. Callahan "Cal" was welcomed into the world in January 2023. The final months of Allison's life were filled with happiness and contentment as she thrived as a mother of two.

Allison also served as the director of government relations for Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety. She was well known and well respected on Capitol Hill as an ardent champion for safe roads, safe vehicles and safe road users. During her more than 10 years with Advocates, she cultivated a safety legacy that will continue to prevent crashes and save lives for years to come.

Under the leadership of her professional mentors, Cathy Chase and Jackie Gillian, Allison grew into a fierce and successful advocate whose work led to the adoption of critical safety-minded policies, including many of the key

safety provisions of the 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. For generations to come, Allison's legacy will be measured in the countless lives of children, teen drivers, pedestrians, and motorists that her work helped to save. She loved and was adored by all her colleagues at Advocates.

Allison's untimely passing is a monumental personal and professional loss for the Advocates' team and for all those who work closely with the organization. She will be remembered as a dedicated public health and safety activist, wonderful colleague, caring friend, cherished daughter, devoted wife, and dedicated mother.

I send my condolences to her husband Brian, their two young sons Christopher "Kit" and Callahan "Cal," her parents Erin and Michael, her entire family, and all her loved ones.●

#### RECOGNIZING EL SEGUNDO LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL—THE 2023 WORLD CHAMPIONS

● Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the 2023 Little League World Series Champions, Southern California's own El Segundo 12U All Stars.

Every year, communities from around the world gather their best youth baseball players to assemble an All-Star team with dreams of one day making it to the Little League World Series in Williamsport, PA. But after local, State, and regional tournaments, only 20 teams earn such an honor, 10 from the United States and another 10 from around the world. In the end, only one team takes home the World Series title—and it is no easy road.

For the El Segundo 12U All Stars in Williamsport, after an opening game win thanks to back-to-back homers and a high-powered offense, the team from Southern California hit a significant hurdle in just their second game. They lost 3-1 to a Southwest Region team and were quickly sent down to the elimination bracket, facing long odds and a rocky road back to the finals, when even one loss would send them home.

But rather than shrink from the challenge, El Segundo trusted their pitching and defense, their great power hitting, and their fearless competitiveness to rattle off four straight wins to make it all the way to the Little League World Series Championship. Their impressive streak included returning the favor and defeating the team from the Southwest Region in the U.S. Championship 6-1.

Finally, on the biggest stage, facing Curacao in the Little League World Series Championship, El Segundo got off to an early start, jumping to a 5-1 lead in the fourth inning. But the winds quickly shifted after a Curacao grand slam tied the game heading into the sixth and final inning. Yet again, El Segundo refused to back down.

Manager Danny Boehle turned to No. 14 Brody Brooks to shutdown a hot Curacao offense and give El Segundo a

shot in the bottom of the sixth, which he provided with a standout scoreless inning. Then, in the bottom of the sixth, as countless Little League baseball fans will now remember for eternity, No. 19 Louis Lappe stepped up to the plate—and the rest is history. A shot to deep left field sent the crowd to their feet, Lappe around the bases, and a city all the way across the country into pandemonium. Lappe's walk-off homerun meant California, once again, was on top of the baseball world.

For one summer in 2023, kids in Southern California weren't just imitating Mookie Betts' batting stance or dreaming of throwing across the diamond to Freddie Freeman at first base. They were dreaming of playing like Brooks and Lappe, Salazar and Green, Boehle and Keldorf, Lee and Baker, McRoberts and Parks, O'Connor and Kalish.

My sincere congratulations to all the players, manager Danny Boehle, coaches Tim Abrams and Eddie Lee, and all the parents and family members who made this dream possible.

Congratulations—you have made California proud.●

#### REMEMBERING JOHN R. KLAI

● Ms. ROSEN. Mr. President, it is with great sadness that I share the passing of a great Nevadan, a dedicated advocate, and my dear friend John Reynolds Klai II of Las Vegas. John passed away on Saturday, September 2 with his husband Jon, loving family, and beloved dogs Bruno and Dexter at his side. John leaves behind an incredible legacy as an impactful community leader and champion for equality and justice.

John was born and raised in the small town of Osnabrock, ND. His smalltown values guided his generous spirit and deep love of community. After taking an engineering class at the University of North Dakota's College of Business, John realized a knack for architecture. Upon graduating with a bachelor of architecture from North Dakota State University, NDSU, John moved out west to Las Vegas to join Marnell Corrao Associates. In 1995, John and his business partner Dan Juba founded Klai Juba Architects, now Klai Juba Wald Architecture + Interiors. Over the last 40 years, John has made significant contributions to building Las Vegas, leading projects at Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino, the Forum Shops at Caesars, and many local landmarks.

Outside of his distinguished career, John devoted his time and resources to supporting architecture programs at NDSU and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, UNLV. He thoroughly enjoyed his time serving as a volunteer adjunct faculty member in UNLV's hospitality design graduate program. He also made regular trips back to Fargo, ND, to teach students at NDSU. To honor John's service to the program, NDSU awarded him with an hon-

orary doctorate of humane letters in 2018.

John's service to his community extended beyond educating the next generation of architects. He volunteered much of his time to many great institutions, both in Nevada and across the country. John was heavily involved with the LGBTQIA+ Community Center of Southern Nevada, helping the community organization to celebrate diversity, empowering everyone to live as their authentic selves, and supporting others through difficult times.

John and his husband Jon Sparer, also an architect, met in Las Vegas in 1981. They made Las Vegas their home and were married in 2014. They shared a deep love of travel, trekking across the world and most recently across North America in their motor coach with their puppies. John is survived by his loving husband, his daughter and son-in-law, two grandchildren, and many more family members and friends.

I met John over 25 years ago through our synagogue, and I will forever cherish his unwavering friendship and support. He stood up for what was right, fought against what was wrong, and always put others ahead of himself. John was a beloved member of the Las Vegas community and will be deeply missed. May his memory be a blessing.●

#### RECOGNIZING TAMPA VETERANS TREATMENT COURT AND MENTORS PROGRAM

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize the 10-year anniversary of the Tampa Veterans Treatment Court and Veteran Mentors Program.

Among the largest veteran treatment courts in the nation, the Tampa Veterans Treatment Court and Mentors Program was established in 2013 thanks to the efforts of retired U.S. Army COL DJ Reyes. The purpose of the program is to help identify and provide the necessary U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs treatments and counselling to veterans whose involvement in the criminal justice system is often connected to a condition or disorder incurred during their military service.

At the height of the program, the Tampa Veterans Treatment Court and Mentors Program grew to more than 225 veteran defendants and more than 100 volunteer veteran mentors. The program currently enjoys a 90-percent graduation rate and is nationally recognized as the model for newly formed veteran treatment courts.

In June 2019, Colonel Reyes was invited to both the White House and Capitol Hill to brief policymakers on the success of the Tampa Veterans Treatment Court and Mentors Program and in support of Federal legislation to support State veteran treatment courts. This bill, the Veteran Treatment Court Coordination Act of 2019, which I cosponsored, was signed into law by President Trump in August 2020.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Colonel Reyes and every-

one associated with the Tampa Veteran Treatment Court and Mentors Program for their work assisting our veterans and wish them many years of continued success.●

#### TRIBUTE TO ROBERT L. WARD

● Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, today I rise today to recognize Robert L. Ward for his many years of service to the State of Florida and its business community. After 26 years serving as a trusted adviser to the Governor's office and legislature, Mr. Ward was chosen in 2016 to be the seventh president and chief executive officer of the Florida Council of 100, Inc. Since 1961, the Council of 100 has worked closely with the governors of the great State of Florida, and on the occasion of Mr. Ward's retirement, I commend his dedication to ensuring the economic prosperity of all Floridians.

During my time as governor, Mr. Ward supported my efforts to drive job creation in the State. He facilitated the creation of a long-term strategic plan for PreK-12 education in Florida emphasizing high standards, rigorous assessments, strong accountability, and the instructional benefits of career and technical education and work-based learning, two key components of our State's educational success. Additionally, Mr. Ward led a project recommending ways to increase research and development by Florida's universities and an initiative outlining a comprehensive economic competitiveness strategy for our State.

Subsequently, Mr. Ward continued to shape workforce policy by serving as the chairman of Florida's Talent Development Council, which ensures that our State's educational programs are meeting the needs of business and industry, and authoring editorials celebrating Florida's thriving business climate and talent pipeline, while Mr. Ward was also a staunch advocate for government fiscal responsibility.

I applaud Mr. Ward for his tenure with the Florida Council of 100 and his long-time dedication to helping Floridians in all the capacities in which he has served. I am pleased to recognize Robert L. Ward in the U.S. Congress.●

#### 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE FRANKLIN PIERCE SCHOOL OF LAW

● Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the University of New Hampshire Franklin Pierce School of Law on its 50th anniversary.

Taking its name from the only Granite Stater to become President of the United States, the Franklin Pierce Law Center was established in 1973 as New Hampshire's first law school. Its founder, renowned inventor Robert Rines, welcomed the first class of students in an old bull barn on the city of Concord's east side. The school's modest beginnings belie the outsized and