

Over the years, Doug has not only nurtured this community's creative spirit but empowered them to take ownership of their craft. The fusion of artistry and business acumen that he helped foster at Belmont and in the careers of up-and-coming music professionals has, slowly but surely, changed the way artists and fans alike think about the presence of music in their lives.

On behalf of all Tennesseans, I want to thank my friend Doug Howard for his dedication to Nashville's music community and congratulate him on receiving this latest, tremendous honor.●

#### 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DAR JAMES ROBERTSON CHAPTER

● Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, today it is my honor to congratulate the women of the General James Robertson Chapter of National Society Daughters of the American Revolution on their organization's 100th anniversary.

The General James Robertson Chapter was founded on October 16, 1923, by Maria Kirkman "Queenie" Woods Washington, a Nashville social icon who could trace her family's roots back to President George Washington. Queenie served as the chapter's first regent and immediately set high standards for her fellow members. Their early emphasis on historic preservation, education, and patriotism laid the foundation for what has become one of the Volunteer State's most active service organizations.

I am honored to count myself among the approximately 100 women of the General James Robertson Chapter who today honor that singular commitment to service. And it is my hope that the love of country that drives our membership will inspire future generations of Tennessee women to put their talents to bear on behalf of students, Active-Duty servicemembers, and their neighbors in the greater Nashville community.●

#### RECOGNIZING LAS VEGAS HIGH SCHOOL'S MARIACHI JOYA

● Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize the incredible talent and achievements of Las Vegas High School's Mariachi Joya. One of the top ensembles in one of the largest mariachi programs in the United States, Mariachi Joya brings music, joy, community, and culture to southern Nevada. I am proud to host them in our Nation's Capital in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month.

Launching in 2018, Mariachi Joya is one of the newest mariachi programs in Clark County, but that hasn't prevented these talented students from becoming a premier ensemble. Over 250 students at Las Vegas High School participate in the school's mariachi program, and many audition for Mariachi Joya, which takes 20 young artists

each year. These students, playing the guitarron, violins, and trumpets, have quickly made Mariachi Joya the top ensemble group representing the school.

Mariachi Joya's skyrocketing fame has taken them around Las Vegas and throughout the country. The students perform locally at homecoming assemblies, sports games, Mexican Independence Day celebrations, and even at national conferences in Las Vegas. In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month 2021, Mariachi Joya came to Washington, DC, to perform for the Mexican Embassy. The group made their State proud when they performed virtually at President Joe Biden's 2021 inauguration.

Despite not being able to meet in-person during the pandemic, Mariachi Joya continued to rehearse and perform together. They recorded and produced an album virtually, "Joya," which has nine tracks, including one original song.

Director Stephen Blanco leads Mariachi Joya and is wholeheartedly dedicated to his students. Mr. Blanco moved from Michigan to Nevada in order to start Las Vegas High School's mariachi program. He has developed an incredible program and was a semifinalist for the 2022 Grammy Music Educator Award.

Mariachi Joya highlights the vibrant Latino history and culture in southern Nevada. It brings the Latino community together as it spreads the beauty of its music. Most importantly, it has an impact on the students who participate. It is giving kids a support system, turning them into model students, and it boasts an impressive 100 percent graduation rate. I am so honored to recognize this incredible program, its brilliant students, and its contributions to the Latino community. I look forward to seeing Mariachi Joya continue to grow and thrive in the years to come.●

#### RECOGNIZING M'S MACHINE

● 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 M's Machine and Manufacturing Company of Monona, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week during National Women's Small Business Month.

M's Machine and Manufacturing Company was founded by Phil Murphy and Chet Allen in Monona, IA, in 1981 as a way to provide original equipment manufacturers—OEMs—CNC machine services. In 1989, Virginia Drahn purchased M's Machine and Manufacturing from the original founders and continued their legacy while being a female-owned and operated business. In 2008, Virginia sold the company to family members Casey, Candace, and Cory

Drahn, with Casey currently serving as the president and Candace as vice president. Four generations of the Drahn family have worked at the company, which is still a woman-owned provider of CNC machine services. They offer CNC machine parts to the agriculture, automotive, industrial, and medical industries throughout the Midwest and have customers in North Carolina and South Carolina. M's Machine and Manufacturing Company has grown to 32 full-time employees and celebrated its 42nd business anniversary in 2023.

M's Machine and Manufacturing Company and the Drahn family are Clayton County and Monona community staples. In 2017, they were featured on KCRG's "Made in Eastern Iowa" segment, highlighting their business's growth and success as a women-owned manufacturer. The team at M's Machine and Manufacturing Company not only works hard, but they also give back. They have participated in National Manufacturing Day, an event held on the first Friday of October and have hosted local students to learn about manufacturing and encourage them to pursue jobs in the industry.

M's Machine commitment to providing OEMs with high-quality CNC machine services in Monona, IA, is clear. I want to congratulate the Drahn family and the entire team at M's Machine and Manufacturing Company for their continued dedication. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success in Iowa.●

#### RECOGNIZING STEFFENSMEIER WELDING AND MANUFACTURING

● 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 Steffensmeier Welding and Manufacturing of Pilot Grove, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week during National Women's Small Business Month.

Steffensmeier Welding and Manufacturing was founded by Ben Steffensmeier in 1982 as a one-person welding shop. He founded the business 2 years after graduating from Fort Madison High School in Fort Madison, IA, and learning how to weld from Joe Mertens and Paul Conrad. In 1985, the one-person shop expanded after Ben hired his brother Glenn Steffensmeier and in 1986 moved the business to their current city of operation, Pine Grove. Steffensmeier Welding and Manufacturing started as a local shop that helped local farmers and has grown to service several big-name clients. In 2000, his wife Jenny started working at the company in a part-time capacity. Jenny eventually took over the day-to-day control of the company in 2011 following Ben's battle with Frontotemporal Dementia. In 2015, Ben

Steffensmeier passed away leaving behind a legacy of hard work, resilience, and excellence in the welding profession.

Today, Jenny Steffensmeier continues to lead the company and has grown to include 12 employees, including 4 of her 5 children working at the company in varying capacities. While in this position, Jenny Steffensmeier has been recognized for her contributions to the welding and manufacturing industry as a female president. She is an alumna of the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses Program, a program that promotes, highlights, and educates small businesses and their importance in the U.S. economy. She has been featured on the Iowa Business Report radio program, Southeastern Community College "Friends" profile, and the "Talks at GS" episode where she joined Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds for a conversation on small businesses. Jenny also serves on the boards of the Iowa Association of Business and Industry and the Iowa Economic Development Authority. In April, 2022, I had the opportunity to tour Steffensmeier Welding and Manufacturing with Jenny and her daughter Rachel as part of my River to River Tour. Steffensmeier Welding and Manufacturing's hard work has paid off; in 2023, they celebrated their 41st business anniversary.

Steffensmeier Welding and Manufacturing's commitment to providing high-quality commercial welding and manufacturing services in Pilot Grove, IA, is clear. I want to congratulate the Jenny Steffensmeier, the Steffensmeier family, and the entire team at Steffensmeier Welding and Manufacturing for their continued dedication. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success in Iowa.●

#### TRIBUTE TO BARBARA HAYS

● Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I am honored to recognize Barbara Hays of Bow as September's Granite Stater of the Month. Barbara leads a group of women at her senior living center who make fidget and lap quilts to donate to local hospital patients and veterans.

When Barbara retired after decades of working at a telephone and communications company, she found herself with a desire to make a positive difference in her community during her new free time. With a friend, she began sewing small lap quilts and donating them to Concord Hospital. During one dropoff, the nurses at the hospital asked if she had ever considered making fidget quilts. These quilts have zippers, elastics, and different fabric textures sewed on to provide sensory stimulation for patients with Alzheimer's and other health challenges.

Barbara wasn't familiar with this type of quilt, but she was eager to try a new way to help people. She watched videos on YouTube to learn how to make them, and earlier this year, she helped start a workshop for the women at her senior living center in Bow to

start making them together. They began to meet twice a month in the community room, each putting together different parts of the quilts.

This past June, Barbara put together a Fidget Quilt Showcase at her White Rock Senior Living Community in order to showcase 40 quilts that the "Happy Quilters of White Rock" had made. In addition, she invited some nurses to join to explain how these quilts can help keep patients' minds busy and prevent them from picking at an IV, for example. Afterward, the group donated a total of 70 fidget quilts to the Visiting Nurse Association, Concord Hospital, the Tilton Veterans Home, and the Manchester VA Medical Center.

Barbara's initiative is emblematic of the Granite State spirit of generosity in many ways. Not only do the fidget blankets make a tremendous difference in the lives of patients with Alzheimer's or dementia, but her quilting group also brings people together at her senior living center. Barbara made sure that even those who had no experience quilting could participate, creating a sense of belonging for everyone. I commend Barbara for making a positive difference in her community, and I am sending the "Happy Quilters of White Rock" my well wishes as they start another round of quilt-making this year.●

#### TRIBUTE TO DON NIKODIM

● Mr. SCHMITT. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the executive director of the Missouri Pork Association, Don Nikodim.

In September, Don announced he would be retiring in January 2024 after 40 years at the Missouri Pork Association as their executive director. He is well-respected by everyone in Missouri's agricultural community, and he is truly a champion for Missouri's pork industry. Under his leadership, the Missouri Pork Association has hit many milestones when advocating for needed policy, educating producers, and ensuring commonsense practices.

From eating ribs and candied bacon at the Pork Place at Missouri's State Fair, to visits to my Washington, DC, office, Don is always a welcoming and friendly face wherever I see him. As a graduate of the University of Missouri, with degrees in animal science, agricultural economics, and agricultural education, Don has always been a wealth of knowledge in the agricultural sector. Those around him always benefit from his expertise. I am glad for how closely I got to work with Don and the Missouri Pork Association, during my time as Missouri's attorney general, as we worked together to combat ridiculous regulations by the Federal Government that hurt our pork industry.

Don will be greatly missed in this role, but I wish him the best in his well-deserved retirement. This is the end of an era for the Missouri Pork As-

sociation, and now, they have some very big shoes to fill.

I applaud Don for his over 40 years of commitment, hard work, and leadership in Missouri's pork industry, and I ask my Senate colleagues to join me in honoring his incredible career and unrelenting passion for Missouri's pork industry.●

#### REMEMBERING DAVID HARRINGTON

● Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I rise today in memory of the late David Harrington for his lifetime of service and contributions to Prince George's County and the great State of Maryland.

Mr. Harrington's distinguished 16-year career in public service began as mayor of the Town of Bladensburg. After 7 years as mayor, Mr. Harrington went on to serve as county councilmember for 6 years and as State senator for 3. Following his tenure as an elected official, Mr. Harrington kept his focus on the growth and success of his community, assuming the role of president and CEO of the Prince George's Chamber of Commerce, where he cemented himself as the chamber's most impactful leader. Under Mr. Harrington's leadership, the organization increased its membership to 600, and revenue grew by 20 percent; he helped spearhead 6 consecutive years of job growth in the county.

Mr. Harrington's legacy and commitment to fostering a better community is further embodied by the Prince George's Junior Achievement Finance Park located in Landover, MD. Mr. Harrington was pivotal in helping to establish the facility, which provides local youth access to financial literacy and other educational programs, nurturing their future financial and academic success. Mr. Harrington's efforts are beyond worthy of recognition through the dedication of the Prince George's Junior Achievement Finance Park's Auditorium in his name.

I offer my heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Harrington's family for his service. Mr. Harrington was passionate leader, mentor, and advocate. Mr. Harrington was not only a revered public servant, but also a dear friend. My thoughts are with Mr. Harrington's family, and may the memory and name of Mr. David Harrington be remembered daily through his dedication and the lasting impression he has made on the lives of others.●

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 4365. An act making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes.