

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HUB ON SMITH

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Sheridan's Senior Center, the Hub on Smith in Sheridan, WY. The Hub is a cornerstone for the community. It provides essential care, meals, and support to residents of Sheridan County.

To commemorate this outstanding achievement, the Hub is hosting "50 for 50"—50 small events and opportunities to highlight staff, patrons, and programs.

In 1972, Sheridan County created the Senior Citizen's Coordinating Council to address the need for senior citizen services. The council discovered many seniors were living alone and struggling to meet basic needs. Poverty and lack of services resulted in a push for a nursing home.

In 1973, the Senior Citizen's Coordinating Council was incorporated into a private nonprofit organization, the Senior Citizens Council. This began their longstanding commitment to the community. The Sheridan Senior Center was established.

Numerous expansions of land, acquisitions, and services occurred over the years. Longstanding relationships with volunteers, foundations, individual donors, local businesses, local government, and elected leaders are greatly responsible for the success and sustainability of the Hub.

The Sheridan Senior Center rebranded in 2017 to the Hub on Smith, a Center for All Generations. This was done to modernize the way services are delivered and marketed. Folks now refer to the center as "the Hub."

The Hub on Smith exemplifies their vision statement of "Sheridan is a community that improves the quality of life for people of all ages by strengthening and supporting its elders and where elders contribute to the well-being and foresight of the community." This is evident through the many services provided to residents in these Wyoming communities: Sheridan, Ranchester, Dayton, Arvada, Clearmont, Big Horn, and Story.

The number and quality of services increased over the years. The Hub on Smith prepares 400-500 nutritious meals daily. These meals can be enjoyed in the center or delivered to residents' homes. The Sheridan minibus was the first service provided by the center. Through fundraising and expansions, Goose Creek Transit is now a door-to-door service for appointments, grocery runs, trips to the Hub, and out-of-town medical appointments. The support center is a team of dedicated information specialists, intake workers, care coordinators, and case managers. They work together to offer an all-encompassing resource hub, often referred to as "the hub of the Hub."

The Hub recognizes the importance of supporting family members and caregivers. Programs such as counseling, support meetings, respite, education, and training creates a strong

network of care for this courageous group. The Hub offers care to seniors both at the center and in their homes. Registered nurses, certified nursing assistants, and access care coordinators make up the Help at Home service. This is a licensed home health agency that supports seniors while maintaining their dignity and independence. The Hub's numerous services and programs include Day Break, an adult daycare, Dementia Friendly Wyoming, which furnishes education and training, and a Loan Closet, lending durable medical equipment to patrons. Fun & Wellness provides social engagement through educational sessions, dance, exercise, outdoor adventures, arts, music, crafts, games, and more. The Trailblazer Project trains volunteers to give one-on-one support to the older adults who need it. The Grab 'N Go Cafe is an alternative option to congregate meals by offering unique foods and drinks. Sales from Urban Thrift, a secondhand store on Main Street, directly benefit the Hub.

There are over 350 individual volunteers who help the community in a variety of roles. These include home-delivered meal drivers, teachers, meal servers, registrars, musical performers, advisers, and board members. Their commitment and willingness to give back reflects their strong community spirit.

The Hub on Smith's mission is "to celebrate, embrace, and serve older adults for the betterment of our community." With 29 percent of Sheridan's population 60 years and older, the Hub on Smith is a vital resource for the city.

The dedicated staff and board members who keep the Hub on Smith running are:

Board of Directors
Melissa Butcher, President
Lori McMullen, Vice President
Robert E. Miller, Treasurer
Kati Sherwood, Secretary
Board Members
Michael W. McCafferty
Casey Osborn
Marcyes Schmaus
Anthony Spiegelberg
Bryn Stewart
Director Emeritus, Ky Dixon
Director Emeritus, Dr. Seymour Thickman
Staff
Carmen Rideout, Executive Director
Sheree Childers-Cossel, Director of Human Resources
Meredith Sopko, Director of Development
Ryan Landis, Director of Operations
Cheryl Lasher, Financial Director
Steve Ainslie, Transportation Director
Barb Blue, Day Break Director
Helaine McRae, Support Center Manager
Kevin Coleman, Executive Chef
Robin Ruff, Tongue River Valley Program Coordinator
Erin Kranz, Urban Thrift Manager
Beth Leahy, Help at Home Manager
Lisa Wells, Sr. Fun and Wellness Coordinator
Amanda Munford, Fun and Wellness Coordinator
Jessica Culligan, Intake Specialist
Heather Comstock, Dementia Friendly Wyoming Director
Emily Gorham-Keith, Care Coordinator

Amanda Rodriguez, Help at Home Program Assistant

Leah Frank, Care Coordinator
Dayna Gates, Care Coordinator
Marcie Morrow, Volunteer Coordinator
Director Emeritus, Ky Dixon
Director Emeritus, Dr. Seymour Thickman

It is an honor for me to rise in recognition of this significant milestone. Bobbi joins me in extending our congratulations to the Hub on Smith for their 50th anniversary.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING ARKANSAS TRUE VISION CHILDREN'S HOMES

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Arkansas True Vision Children's Homes for its tremendous work on behalf of children in foster care.

The Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute—CCAI—recently recognized Arkansas True Vision as a 2023 Angels in Adoption honoree. I believe it is well-deserved for the organization's clear dedication to ensuring better outcomes for children in foster care. CCAI coordinates the Angels in Adoption program and raises awareness about the tens of thousands of orphans and foster children in the United States and the millions of orphans around the world in need of permanent homes.

Arkansas True Vision operates three facilities in the State to address a variety of critical needs—helping children in dire situations, supporting foster children who need special care, and keeping sibling groups together. This nonprofit organization supports 40-50 kids daily and is a licensed service provider for the Arkansas Department of Children and Family Services. In addition to its mission of caring for kids in emergencies and long-term foster care, the organization has also assisted in 60 adoptions since 2015. The Florence Crittenton Home in Little Rock opened in 2004 as True Vision's first children's home. It serves as a residential group home providing emergency shelter services and long-term residential care for children and adolescents in need of a safe and secure environment.

The Maggie House in Charleston provides long term residential care to foster children, many with complex cases. The kids live in small group cottages and are supported by house parents, case managers, therapists, and many other community and school resources.

In addition, Arkansas True Vision's newest mission is the Young Children's Home in Fort Smith. This unique program has become a model for home-based foster care where three special houses provide care for sibling groups on a neighborhood style campus.

As a member of the Congressional Coalition on Adoption, I am inspired by the work of Arkansas True Vision's volunteers, direct care staff, leaders, and community partners who are working every day to improve the lives of young people.

On behalf of the people of the Natural State, I extend my gratitude and congratulations to Arkansas True Vision Children's Homes for this recognition and the positive impact it will continue to make in the lives of youth in need of safe and loving homes.●

TRIBUTE TO ARLAN D. MELENDEZ

● Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Arlan D. Melendez, Chairman of the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony. Arlan Melendez, who has been Chair of the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony for over 30 years—one of the longest-serving Tribal Chairs in the country—is no stranger to public service. He has spent his life devoted to causes bigger than himself. His service to his country, his State, and his people deserves to be recognized. I have had the honor and pleasure of working with Chairman Melendez in advancing Tribal priorities, and his leadership and partnership will be missed.

Born and raised in Northern Nevada, Chairman Melendez began his career of service in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Vietnam era. After serving his country, Chairman Melendez took up leadership positions within his Tribal community. First elected to the Tribal Council in 1987, Melendez served as treasurer and vice-chairman before being elected Chairman of the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony in 1991. Under Chairman Melendez's leadership, the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony has partnered with the State of Nevada, Washoe County, the cities of Reno and Sparks, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs to expand the Colony's total land base to over 2,000 acres. In his over 30 years as Tribal Chairman, the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony has thrived and proven to be an economic force in Northern Nevada. Additionally, Chairman Melendez has served on the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada, including as president, helping to support the 28 Tribal communities in Nevada.

Chairman Melendez's work has spread far beyond the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony and Nevada. In 2005, he was appointed to a 6-year term on the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights by then-Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid. There, he worked to further the Commission's mission to champion the development of national civil rights policy and enhance enforcement of Federal civil rights laws. Chairman Melendez has also been active in the National Congress of American Indians—NCAI—an organization dedicated to serving the broad interests of Tribal governments and communities across this country. At NCAI, he served as the western region vice president and chaired the taxation subcommittee. Chairman Melendez has distinguished himself as a member of the Leadership Council for the Center for Indian Country Development at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, where he contributes to strategies for building stronger

Indian Country economies. Chairman Melendez also served on the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Tribal Advisory Committee advocating for better access to healthcare for Tribal communities and played an important role supporting Indian Country through the pandemic. Additionally, the Chairman has received awards for his lifetime of achievements from the Native American Finance Officers Association and the National Indian Health Service.

As Chairman Melendez retires, it is important that we call attention to his distinguished career of public service. The communities that he touched in Nevada and around the country are better for his leadership, hard work, and dedication.●

TRIBUTE TO ERIN CAMPBELL

● Mr. OSSOFF. Mr. President, I rise to commend a champion of Georgia's families. In October 2015, Erin Campbell valiantly founded the Athens Area Diaper Bank with a mission to help families in need. Since then, her work has helped countless families access some of the most basic, yet vital, supplies a newborn and their families need. Working with partner nonprofits, agencies, and organizations in their six-county service area, Ms. Campbell and the Athens Area Diaper Bank work to collect donations and distribute diapers and other supplies to those in need.

In 2022, the Athens Area Diaper Bank celebrated its 1 millionth diaper distributed, an incredible feat. Working closely with Ms. Campbell and the Athens Area Diaper Bank team, I brought Republicans and Democrats together to deliver new funding for the Athens Area Diaper Bank and their partner organization, Helping Mamas, enabling them to serve more rural communities in the Athens-Clarke County Area.

As Georgia's U.S. Senator, I commend Erin Campbell for her inspirational service to the Athens area and thank her and the entire Athens Area Diaper Bank team for their work.●

RECOGNIZING GREATER SHADE GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

● Mr. OSSOFF. Mr. President, I rise to commend Columbus, Georgia's Greater Shady Grove Missionary Baptist Church on its 160th anniversary, celebrated in August 2023. Founded in 1863 under a grape arbor in an oak grove as Shady Grove Missionary Baptist Church, the congregation has been a mainstay of the Columbus, GA, community ever since its founding by Brother Boston Miles and Sister Mary Moore, who became the church's first members.

In August 1967, the First Baptist Church of Columbus, GA, granted full titles and deeds of the church building to the Shady Grove congregation, and on March 27, 1968, the Superior Court of Muscogee County duly incorporated

the "Greater Shady Grove Baptist Church, Inc.," a name change to distinguish itself from other churches with the same name. In January 1988, the Reverend Dr. Marcus J. Gibson became the acting pastor and served in that capacity until April 17, 1998, when he was made interim pastor. On February 14, 1999, Reverend Gibson was installed as the 22nd pastor of the Greater Shady Grove Missionary Baptist Church, the same role he maintains today. Under Pastor Gibson's leadership, the congregation has continued to flourish, successfully expanding, improving the south parking lot, upgrading the transportation ministry, and remodeling the sanctuary. Greater Shady Grove Missionary Baptist Church has also added new ministries and programs, including the annual women's and laymen's conferences, outreach ministry expansion and improvements, the organization of the liturgical dance ministry, the mother ministry, the organization of the sick, bereavement and condolence ministry, and initiating of the deacons family care. Above all, Greater Shady Grove Baptist Church remains a central place for fellowship, community, teaching, and nurturing.

As Georgia's U.S. Senator, I commend Reverend Marcus J. Gibson and the Greater Shady Grove Baptist Church on its momentous 160th anniversary, and here is to many more.●

RECOGNIZING REESE-HYMAN AMERICAN LEGION POST NO. 96

● Mr. OSSOFF. Mr. President, I rise to commend the Reese-Hyman American Legion Post No. 96 on its 100th anniversary.

Founded in 1923 by World War I veterans from Warren and Glascock Counties, the Reese-Hyman American Legion was named in honor of Cummings Reese and Samuel Hart Hyman, the only Warren County residents who lost their lives in service to the Nation during World War I. According to Eric Wilkerson, who had served as the post's adjutant for 17 years, the local chapter quickly grew to over 100 members in its first few months and became very active in the community, including running the annual Warren-Glascock County Fair.

Led today by Commander Patricia Hambach, the Reese-Hyman American Legion Post No. 96 continues bringing local veterans together, helping them access their hard-earned benefits and advocating for policies that help veterans. In July, its members gathered in Warrenton to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Reese-Hyman American Legion Post No. 96.

As Georgia's U.S. Senator, I thank all of Georgia's veterans for their service and sacrifice on behalf of our Nation, and I commend the Reese-Hyman American Legion Post No. 96 on this momentous occasion.●