

and expand the national security capabilities of our country. The official christening and launch will be celebrated on October 27, 2023. We, members of the U.S. Senate, recognize the ongoing service of Eastern Shipbuilding Group to provide our military with capable, war-ready ships and thank the U.S. Coast Guard for ensuring the safety and well-being of Americans across the Nation.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### REMEMBERING COOKIE BIBLE

• Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize the life and legacy of Cookie Bible, an extraordinary Nevadan who touched the lives of countless women and families in her adopted State. She passed peacefully in Reno, NV, on Saturday, June 3, 2023, at the age of 77.

LaVerne Jo “Cookie” McManus was born in San Francisco; on July 30, 1945, and grew up under her grandmother’s care to become widely known as a strong advocate for women’s health. Cookie was a fourth-generation San Franciscan; however, she was proud to be a “true blue” Nevadan. She fell in love with the Nevada side of Lake Tahoe where she met and married into the family of U.S. Senator Alan Bible and was a resident of Zephyr Cove ever since. Her neighbors affectionately called her “Mayor of the Cove.”

Following graduation from Orvis School of Nursing at the University of Nevada, Reno, with a bachelor of science in nursing in 1971, Cookie became a certified Nurses Association of The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists Nurse Practitioner in OB/GYN in 1980. She rose to State and national prominence, serving on the Nevada Board of Nursing, as well as the National Council of State Boards of Nursing in leadership positions.

In 2003, she received the Exceptional Leadership Award from the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, where she chaired the nurse practice, education, and regulatory and nominating committees.

Cookie was the lead nurse practitioner with Planned Parenthood Mar Monte region for nearly 20 years. She served as an adjunct faculty member for Orvis School of Nursing and held contracts with both the State of Nevada and Washoe County Health Department. She was in private women’s healthcare practice from 2004–2017. She was also a founding member of Douglas County Council for Abused Women and the Nevada Women’s Fund.

In addition, Cookie dedicated much of her life to Girl Scouts—12 years as a girl and 56 years as a Girl Scout adult. She was a past president of the Sierra Nevada region of Girl Scouts of America. She continued to buy cartons of Girl Scout cookies to share with charities and dinner guests.

Seeing patients from ages 14 to 80-plus years old was her professional pas-

sion, in addition to teaching and training at the University of Nevada, Reno, and Truckee Meadows Community College and lecturing before various groups. With a second home in Boulder City, Cookie was a dedicated women’s care provider for Volunteers in Medicine in southern Nevada.

Cookie was a member of St. John in the Wilderness Episcopal Church for more than 30 years, serving in leadership positions, as well as greeting guests and parishioners in the historic lakeside church on the grounds of Camp Galilee at Glenbrook, Lake Tahoe.

A world traveler, Cookie enjoyed great adventures from China to Italy to the Galapagos Islands. But she loved Nevada best. She was happiest hiking on trails in the Sierra Nevada Mountains with her dog Zephyr, spending time on the beach, and gathering her family and friends for barbecues in her backyard.

At every opportunity, Cookie demonstrated her strong commitment to the women of Nevada. I know that her work, advocacy, and dedication to women’s health will not be forgotten. I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering Cookie for her significant impact in Nevada. I celebrate Cookie’s legacy, and I extend my deepest condolences to her family and friends. •

##### TRIBUTE TO SHERM ANDERSON

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today I have the distinct honor of recognizing Sherm Anderson of Powell County for his long-standing dedication to Montana’s timber industry, carrying out his family’s entrepreneurial spirit in his hometown of Deer Lodge and for selflessly serving the greater Powell County community. His perseverance in his personal and professional life helps the State of Montana maintain its vital wood products industry.

Sherm’s dedication to healthy Montana forests first began when he was a teenager driving a logging truck. Years later, he and his wife Bonnie went on to form the Sun Mountain Lumber forest products company, which employs hundreds of people and serves as the Treasure State’s largest lumber mill and North America’s largest finger joint plant. Sun Mountain Lumber plays a vital role in the Deer Lodge Valley economy and continues to have an impact across the State. Earlier this year, Sherm purchased R-Y Timber, a Livingston, MT, sawmill, that was shuttered following a devastating fire—and saved even more logging jobs. Montanans are lucky to have this forest products powerhouse right in our backyard.

When it comes to Sherm’s accomplished work history, he served in the Montana State Legislature, branched out into real estate and construction, operates a fitness center, contributes to a local auto museum, maintains his own 1,200-acre ranch, and most recently invested in the town’s old hos-

pital complex in order to renovate it into workforce housing. As Sherm continues to weather the volatility of the timber industry, he understands that collaboration is critical to keeping important wood product jobs viable and also ensuring our forest lands remain healthy for generations to come. It is clear Sherm understands the importance in working with folks from all backgrounds to make southwestern Montana a better place to live and work.

It is my distinct honor to recognize Sherm Anderson for his passion to preserve our shared Montana way of life. The Anderson family has created a multigenerational legacy that promotes fruitful forest stewardship. “Montana Proud!” •

##### RECOGNIZING SECRET SERENITY SALON AND SPA

• 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 Secret Serenity Salon and Spa of Harlan, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week during National Women’s Small Business Month.

Founded by Tami Kloewer in 2007, Secret Serenity Salon and Spa is a full-service salon serving customers in western Iowa communities. Secret Serenity Salon and Spa offers hair, nail, and skin care services, as well as a spa and retail store in their shop. Secret Serenity Salon and Spa started with Tami as the only employee but has grown to now employ 21 full- and part-time employees. In addition to their in-store services, their retail store offers a variety of beauty care products for all types of skin and hair needs. In 2023, Secret Serenity Salon and Spa celebrated its 16th business anniversary.

In addition to providing beauty services, Secret Serenity Salon and Spa is also actively involved in the Harlan community. In February 2022, Secret Serenity Salon and Spa participated in a Women’s Health Night event hosted by Myrtue Medical Center in Harlan. The event provided local women with routine health screenings while Secret Serenity Salon and Spa offered free chair massages to participants. The team has also supported philanthropies to help the local schools, retirement centers, and hospital. Secret Serenity Salon and Spa is a member of the Shelby County Chamber of Commerce and Industry and has hosted the chamber’s annual Holiday Open House. Owner Tami Kloewer is also involved in the Iowa community. In 2020, Tami Kloewer was nominated to serve on the Iowa Board of Cosmetology Arts and Sciences by Gov. Kim Reynolds and served on the board until 2023.

Secret Serenity Salon and Spa’s commitment to providing beauty care in

Harlan, IA, is clear. I want to congratulate Tami Kloefer and the entire team at Secret Serenity Salon and Spa for their continued dedication to providing beauty care to Iowans. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success in Iowa.●

#### REMEMBERING FLORINE MARK

● Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the passing of my dear friend Florine Mark, an icon and trailblazer in Michigan and the international business community.

A role model, entrepreneur, and businesswoman, Florine established the first Michigan Weight Watchers franchise in 1966, holding her first meeting in a school auditorium. Over the next 50 years, Florine grew her portfolio, acquiring franchises in 13 States, Canada, and Mexico, to become the largest franchise holder of Weight Watchers International, employing over 4,200 people.

Behind Florine's drive for success was a deeply held desire to uplift and inspire others to see and act upon the best in themselves. From her early childhood, growing up in a family with very limited means, Florine's bubbly instilled in her the importance of giving back to others. She often spent Sundays with her grandmother, raising funds for Jewish charities and was an active member of her congregation at Adat Shalom Synagogue.

Florine's signature saying, "love, love, love," not only reflected her love of family, but also her commitment to improving the lives of others. Florine shared her time and expertise to countless community organizations throughout Michigan, including Children's Hospital of Michigan, Detroit Institute for Children, Business Leaders of Michigan, Detroit Regional Chamber, Henry Ford Health System, University of Michigan Cardiovascular Center, Women of Tomorrow, and several others. She was an active board member of the Michigan Fitness Foundation; the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness, Health, and Sports; the Governor's Economic Council Advisory Board; and was on the board of trustees of the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan since 1992.

As a strong advocate for women's professional development and leadership roles in business, Florine sat on the Women's Leadership Board at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. She also served a 3-year term on the Detroit branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, was on the Michigan Committee supporting the Smithsonian American Women's History Museum, and on the board of directors for English Gardens.

A well-known motivational speaker, she hosted "Today's Takeaway with Florine Mark," during which she interviewed celebrity guests and everyday individuals about physical and mental health, relationships, and other self-care topics. Through her "Ask Florine"

and "Remarkable Women" segments on local broadcasts, she sought to uplift women leaders while raising self-esteem by providing an avenue for advice, support, and dialogue.

Florine's leadership earned her several awards throughout her career, including the 2003 "Entrepreneurial Visionary Award" from the Women's Business Center in Washington, DC. She was also recognized among the 100 Most Influential Women in Detroit by Crain's Detroit Business Magazine, was the recipient of the William Davidson Lifetime Achievement Award, and was the first woman to receive the Neal Shine Award for Exemplary Regional Leadership. She received honorary degrees from Eastern Michigan University, Central Michigan University, Oakland University, Walsh College, Wayne State University, and Lawrence Technological University. Five of these were honorary doctorates. And just earlier this month, Florine received the Women Who Make a Difference award from the International Women's Forum for her accomplishments and contributions to her community and the world.

Through a lifetime of efforts big and small, Florine cemented a legacy as an icon in Michigan, across the country, and around the world. She willingly and selflessly made time for her community, her friends, and especially for her family whom she cherished more than anything. I personally know how deeply proud Florine was of her seven children and her many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

I am proud to honor the life and legacy of my friend, Florine Mark. I ask that we offer our sympathies to her family and thank them for sharing Florine with us all. She will be sorely missed.●

#### TRIBUTE TO ROBERT WHALEY

● Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, today I would like to honor the life and service of a distinguished Montanan and Vietnam veteran, Lieutenant Colonel Robert Whaley.

Bob is a native son of the Treasure State and graduated from Missoula County High in 1954. He had a successful college football career at Carroll College, where he also served as president of the student body council. After graduating from Carroll, Bob answered the call to serve and enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps for Aviation Office Candidate School. He shortly commissioned as a second lieutenant and spent the next 18 months at Pensacola flight school training in Florida, flying both fixed-wing aircrafts and helicopters.

In April 1962, Bob was a member of the first Marine aircraft unit to serve in South Vietnam. Soon after arriving in Vietnam, he also participated in the Vietnam war's first night medevac mission. Throughout his first two tours of Vietnam, Bob flew medevac helicopters, where he rescued wounded American troops. While flying a Huey

gunship to support transport helicopters in 1965, Bob's aircraft was shot down. He and the rest of his crew miraculously survived the crash, but they sustained serious injuries and were evacuated stateside to recover. After recovering, he began training replacement pilots at Camp Pendleton and eventually returned to Vietnam in 1968, 3 weeks after marrying his wife, LaWana. There, he got back in the Huey and flew hundreds of recon and rescue missions. When Bob finally returned to the U.S. from Vietnam for the last time in 1969, he had logged more than 800 missions and earned 40 Air Medals, two Distinguished Flying Crosses, a Bronze Star, and a Purple Heart. He continued his service in the Marine Corps for another decade and eventually retired in 1979 as a lieutenant colonel and the executive officer of Marine Air Group 39 at Camp Pendleton.

After retiring, Bob returned to his native Missoula and began working as a financial adviser. Eventually, he retired for good so he and LaWana could enjoy the mountains outside of Missoula. Sadly, LaWana passed last December, after 54 years of marriage.

Today, it is my honor to commemorate Bob's incredible service to our country. On behalf of myself and a grateful nation, I commend Lieutenant Colonel Whaley, and extend our deepest appreciation to him and his family. His exemplary service in the Marines is what makes our country the greatest in the world and Montana the Last Best Place. He is a true patriot who has made Montana proud, and we owe him a deep debt of gratitude.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Kelly, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and two withdrawals which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13413 OF OCTOBER 27, 2006, WITH RESPECT TO THE SITUATION IN OR IN RELATION TO THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO—PM 26

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message