

being Jack Rutland, Jr. On the 10-year anniversary of the Military Memorial Museum's opening, Jack interviewed four veterans. His interviews were captivating and respectfully executed, leading the public to want more. Today, Jack has conducted more than 50 interviews with veterans, some as recently as a few weeks ago. These interviews can be heartbreaking, like the story of World War II veteran Mr. Howard Britt who had to leave his beloved lieutenant in the field after he had been wounded. While in enemy territory, there was no time to wait. A story from Mr. Don Hemphill was similarly moving, detailing his arrival on the beaches of Normandy on the evening of D-day and seeing the wreckage of equipment left behind, as well as American soldiers who had not made it. The scene was so harrowing that Mr. Hemphill still could not talk about it when he was interviewed. In addition to these poignant interviews were inspirational recollections, like Mr. Hoyte Case who saw the iconic flag raised on Iwo Jima atop Mount Suribachi from his ship as he left the battle. Mr. Herbert Savell recounted his long journey home from the Pacific following the end of the war, traveling by cattle car to return to his small hometown in the Mississippi Delta. Walking down the aisle of the church and sitting in the pew beside his mother was how he returned. Each interview shows another side of the tragedies and triumphs faced by veterans.

The work that Jack has done is necessary to help younger generations understand the commitments and sacrifices made by our Nation's veterans. Preserving the oral histories of those who served helps us better understand the challenging circumstances they underwent and the emotional impacts they experienced during that time. These veterans had immense influence on our country from their brave and selfless duty of protecting our Nation's values and freedoms. Through the diligent work of Jack Rutland, Jr., we can learn a bit more about the Nation we are today from those who served in the armed forces for us.

My life has truly been enhanced by knowing Jack and his wife Shirley, who reside in my corner of the world. They have an outstanding family that includes their daughter Jamie, son-in-law Joshua Grosshans, and three grandchildren: Avery Rose, Jack Seton, and Alice Faye.

In conclusion, I am incredibly grateful to Mr. Jack Rutland, Jr., for dedicating his time to serving those who have served our country. I commend him for his accomplishments, and I hope his story and the veterans' stories he brings to light will inspire future generations.●

REMEMBERING VIC FISCHER

● Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to an extraordinary Alaskan, Victor Fischer, who passed

away on October 22, 2023, after an incredible 99-year life where he made an indelible mark on the State of Alaska. Vic's legacy of dedicated public service continues to touch the lives of all Alaskans, and we will miss his kindness, compassion, and mentorship.

In his early life, Vic Fischer witnessed firsthand the regimes of Nazi Germany and Stalinist Russia. He came to the United States at 15 years old and quickly immersed himself in his new country, first through education and later through military service. His service in the Army during World War II took him to France, Germany, and the Philippines. This experience, along with his early years in Berlin and Moscow, helped shape his lifelong belief in the intrinsic value of democracy and human life, values which influenced his many contributions to the State of Alaska. After the war, Vic obtained a graduate degree at MIT and then came to Alaska in 1950 as Anchorage's first city planner, drawn by the promise of adventure and the freedom of opportunity.

Vic's many contributions were invaluable to the formation of Alaska as we know it today. He served in the last territorial legislature and was an active participant in Operation Statehood from its inception, believing strongly that Alaskans should be able to make decisions for their own communities as full members of the Union. As a member of this legislature, Vic co-sponsored the repeal of Alaska's death penalty, work he remained proud of throughout his life as someone who witnessed the power of an authoritarian state to kill its citizens. He played an important role as a delegate to the Alaska Constitutional Convention, helping draft the Alaska Constitution for our new State. Several decades later, as a State senator, Vic worked with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to improve Alaskan education, promote women's rights, social infrastructure, fishing rights, and much more. He remained politically active until his final months, educating Alaskans about our constitution, governance structures, and advocacy at all levels. As the author and journalist Charles Wohlforth wrote shortly after Vic's passing, "Time on Earth is only an opportunity. Fischer had a large share, and made use of it all. He remained optimistically engaged deep into his 90s, always making friends, always committed, always connecting."

Generations of Alaskans will remember Vic Fischer as a kind man with strong, clear values who committed his life to serving Alaska. Vic had a fundamental belief in the value of democracy, encouraging people to participate in their local communities, their State, and their government and to stand up against authoritarianism. He opposed discrimination in any form and emphasized the need to dedicate time and effort to those without power. Above all, he encouraged Alaskans to

exercise the civic power to vote, believing that we all have an obligation to each other and to our State to do so. Vic's lifelong work and political activism reflect his belief that Alaskans can come together to solve any problem, provided we share a love for Alaska and a willingness to do what is right.

The life and legacy of Vic Fischer will continue to inspire Alaskans across our State, and we will all miss his integrity and friendship. Our condolences are extended to his wife Jane Angvik, his children, and grandchildren.●

TRIBUTE TO JOHN RICHARDS

● Mr. SCHMITT. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize an outstanding leader from Missouri, Mr. John Richards. John is the CEO and general manager of Sho-Me Power Electric Cooperative out of Marshfield, MO.

In March 2023, John announced he would be retiring at the end of the year to close out a long and distinguished career of over 48 years with Sho-Me Power. He began his career with Sho-Me Power in September 1975 as a supervisor trainee in their accounting department. Less than a year later, John was promoted to an accountant, and in 1979, he became the manager of finance, later referred to as chief financial officer, a position he would hold for 37 years. In 2016, John was appointed by Sho-Me Power's board of directors to become the Cooperative's fifth CEO and general manager.

John graduated college in 1975 after studying accounting at Missouri Southern State College and University of Tulsa. He later received his master of business administration from Drury University in 1978. While in school, John interned for KAMO Power and was later hired on full-time before moving to Sho-Me Power.

John has been a resident of Springfield, MO, for several decades and is glad to call it home. He is involved in his community and has volunteered at his church for many years. He welcomes more opportunities for community engagement that retirement will offer. In his retirement, John most looks forward to spending more time with his four granddaughters, traveling with his wife, golfing, and "not having to drive on I-44 every day."

I applaud John for his 48 years of leadership, dedication, and selfless service to Sho-Me Power Electric Cooperative, and I ask my Senate colleagues to join me in honoring his incredible career and wish him the best in his well-deserved retirement.●

RECOGNIZING CHOWAN UNIVERSITY

● Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Chowan University, a North Carolina institution of higher education that has long served our great State and this Nation.

This year, Chowan University, located in Murfreesboro, NC, is celebrating the 175th anniversary of its founding, which occurred on October 11, 1848. Chowan's demisemiseptcentennial is a time to commemorate the institution, honor the heritage, and applaud the people who accomplished and are accomplishing extraordinary things by creating positive change in the lives of others.

Chowan is a Christian educational institution founded by Baptist families and named Chowan "people of the south," to honor the Native American Algonquin Chowanoke Tribe. In the spring of 1848, a group of fathers gathered at the home of Dr. Godwin Cotton Moore, moderator of the Chowan Baptist Association. These men were determined to have an institution that would give their daughters a well-rounded education, and they presented a resolution to the association. The association appointed the first trustees for the "female high school," to be called Chowan Female Institute. Dr. Archibald McDowell of South Carolina was elected first principal, and the institute opened on October 11, 1848, with 11 students—thus began the institution, which now boasts over 15,000 alumni who live around the world. These alumni, friends, students, families, faculty, and staff are held in high regard. They are transforming the world by solving problems, sharing talents, and spreading Chowan University's rich story.

Today, we honor Chowan University's commitment to the education of past, present, and future generations. I ask my fellow Senators to join me in honoring Chowan University for its service.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:54 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 2103(b), and the order of the House of January 9, 2023, the Speaker appoints the following individual to the Board of Trustees of the American Folklife Center in the Library of Congress on the part of the House of Representatives for a term of 6 years: Ms. Amy Kitchener of Fresno, California.

The message further announced that pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 8468(a), and the order of the House of January 9, 2023, the Speaker appoints the following Member on the part of the House of Representatives to the Board of Visitors to the United States Naval Academy: Mr. DELUZIO of Pennsylvania.

The message also announced that pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 7455(a), and the order of the House of January 9, 2023, the Speaker appoints the following Member on the part of the House of Representatives to the Board of Visitors to the United States Military Academy: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-2751. A communication from the Senior Counsel of Legal Policy, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Civil Monetary Penalties Inflation Adjustment for 2023" (Docket No. OLP 175) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 6, 2023; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2752. A communication from the Chief of the Immigration Law Division, Executive Office for Immigration Review, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Office of the Chief Administrative Hearing Officer, Review Procedures" (RIN1615-AB28) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 1, 2023; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2753. A communication from the Solicitor General, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the decision not to seek Supreme Court review of the *Abbot v. Biden* decision of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2754. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a legislative proposal that would instruct and provide statutory authority for the federal district court overseeing the criminal case against alleged Pan Am Flight 103 bombmaker Abu Agila Mohammed Mas'ud Kheir Al-Marimi to provide victims of the Pan Am Flight 103 bombing remote video and telephonic access to proceedings in the case; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2755. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu National Blue Alert Act Report to Congress September 2023"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2756. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Extension of Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions; Multiple Chemicals" (FRL No. 11517-01-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 1, 2023; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2757. A communication from the General Counsel of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Supervisory Letter - Minimum Liquidity and Cash Flow Calculation Under Advisory Bulletin 2018-07" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 1, 2023; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2758. A communication from the Deputy Director of Congressional Affairs, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Entry List Additions" (RIN0694-AJ41) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 1, 2023; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2759. A communication from the Chair and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a transaction involving U.S. exports

to Ethiopia; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2760. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Reliability Standards to Address Inverter-Based Resources" ((RIN1902-AG07) (Docket No. RM22-14-000)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 1, 2023; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2761. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Updating Regulations for Engineering and Design Materials for Liquefied National Gas Facilities Related to Potential Impacts Caused by Natural Hazards" (Docket No. RM22-8-000) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 1, 2023; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2762. A communication from the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Returning the Urban Sea to Abundance: A Two-Year Review (2020-2021) of Implementation of the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2763. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Changes to Reporting Requirements for Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances and to Supplier Notifications for Chemicals of Special Concern; Community Right-to-Know Toxic Chemical Release Reporting" ((RIN2070-AK97) (FRL No. 8741-04-OCSPP)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 1, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2764. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Vehicle Miles Traveled Emissions Offset Demonstrations for the 2015 Ozone Standards; California" (FRL No. 10386-02-R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 1, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2765. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval and Disapproval; Colorado; Serious Attainment Plan Elements and Related Revisions for the 2008 8-Hour Ozone Standard for the Denver Metro/North Front Range Nonattainment Area" (FRL No. 11237-02-R8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 1, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2766. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; North Carolina; Revisions to Miscellaneous Particulate Matter Rules" (FRL No. 11368-02-R4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 1, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2767. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; FL; Miscellaneous SIP Revision" (FRL No.