

were purchased by valiant men, and by men who learned their duty." That is the source of all greatness in all societies, and it is the key to progress in our own time.

The second danger is that of expediency; of those who say that hopes and beliefs must bend before immediate necessities. Of course if we must act effectively we must deal with the world as it is. We must get things done. But if there was one thing that President Kennedy stood for that touched the most profound feeling of young people across the world, it was the belief that idealism, high aspiration and deep convictions are not incompatible with the most practical and efficient of programs—that there is no basic inconsistency between ideals and realistic possibilities—no separation between the deepest desires of heart and of mind and the rational application of human effort to human problems. It is not realistic or hard-headed to solve problems and take action unguided by ultimate moral aims and values, although we all know some who claim that it is so. In my judgement, it is thoughtless folly. For it ignores the realities of human faith and of passion and of belief; forces ultimately more powerful than all the calculations of our economists or of our generals. Of course to adhere to standards, to idealism, to vision in the face of immediate dangers takes great courage and takes self-confidence. But we also know that only those who dare to fail greatly, can ever achieve greatly.

It is this new idealism which is also, I believe, the common heritage of a generation which has learned that while efficiency can lead to the camps at Auschwitz, or the streets of Budapest, only the ideals of humanity and love can climb the hills of the Acropolis.

A third danger is timidity. Few men are willing to brave the disapproval of their fellows, the censure of their colleagues, the wrath of their society. Moral courage is a rarer commodity than bravery in battle or great intelligence. Yet it is the one essential, vital quality for those who seek to change the world which yields most painfully to change. Aristotle tells us "At the Olympic games it is not the finest or the strongest men who are crowned, but those who enter the lists . . . so too in the life of the honorable and the good it is they who act rightly who win the prize." I believe that in this generation those with the courage to enter the conflict will find themselves with companions in every corner of the world.

For the fortunate amongst us, the fourth danger is comfort; the temptation to follow the easy and familiar path of personal ambition and financial success so grandly spread before those who have the privilege of an education. But that is not the road history has marked out for us. There is a Chinese curse which says "May he live in interesting times." Like it or not, we live in interesting times. They are times of danger and uncertainty; but they are also the most creative of any time in the history of mankind. And everyone here will ultimately be judged—will ultimately judge himself—on the effort he has contributed to building a new world society and the extent to which his ideals and goals have shaped that effort.

So we part, I to my country and you to remain. We are—if a man of forty can claim the privilege—fellow members of the world's largest younger generation. Each of us have our own work to do. I know at times you must feel very alone with your problems and with your difficulties. But I want to say how impressed I am with what you stand for and for the effort you are making; and I say this not just for myself, but men and women all over the world. And I hope you will often take heart from the knowledge that you are joined with your fellow young people in

every land, they struggling with their problems and you with yours, but all joined in a common purpose; that, like the young people of my own country and of every country that I have visited, you are all in many ways more closely united to the brothers of your time than to the older generation in any of these nations; you are determined to build a better future. President Kennedy was speaking to the young people of America, but beyond them to young people everywhere, when he said "The energy, the faith, the devotion which we bring to this endeavor will light our country and all who serve it—and the glow from that fire can truly light the world."

And, he added, "With a good conscience our only sure reward, with history the final judge of our deeds, let us go forth and lead the land we love, asking His blessing and His help, but knowing that here on earth God's work must truly be our own."

I thank you.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN SWARTOUT

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I rise to commend a great public servant, John Swartout, for his dedicated service to the citizens of Colorado. After more than three decades of tireless service in the public policy arena, I congratulate John on the occasion of his retirement.

John worked as an adviser to Colorado Governors Bill Owens and JOHN HICKENLOOPER and U.S. Senator Wayne Allard on environmental, natural resource, energy, and public lands policy. John was instrumental in Federal land negotiations involving the Roan Plateau settlement, the closing of Rocky Flats, and the designation of Browns Canyon National Monument, James Peak Wilderness, Great Sand Dunes National Park, and the Spanish Peaks Wilderness Area. He also served as the head of policy for the State of Colorado on habitat protection efforts for the greater sage grouse and the Gunnison sage grouse. In these efforts, he showed an uncanny ability to balance habitat conservation goals with the private property rights of landowners.

John grounded his work in integrity, trust, humor, and an innate ability to form coalitions and partnerships among even the most diverse groups. John himself would probably tell you his greatest accomplishment was helping people find common ground that then allowed them to work toward collaborative policy solutions that benefited their community and region. The fact that he worked for governors from both parties demonstrates his ability to work in a strong bipartisan manner to deliver results for Colorado.

In addition to his roles working for elected officials, John also led multiple Agencies and nonprofits. He served as executive director of Great Outdoors Colorado—GOCO—helping to guide millions of dollars of investments in public recreational amenities like trails, playgrounds, parks, fishing ponds, and campgrounds. As the executive director of the Colorado Coalition of Land Trusts, he helped preserve and protect thousands of acres of open space, wildlife habitat, and working agricultural lands.

John most recently served as executive director of Colorado Counties, Inc.—CCI—a nonprofit organization that provides advocacy and education for county governments around the State. Under John's leadership, CCI negotiated an opioid settlement with Colorado's Attorney General and various pharmaceutical companies that provided millions of dollars for local addiction counseling and treatment. He also successfully steered CCI through the COVID-19 pandemic. CCI was integral in assisting county commissioners provide frontline health services and invest millions of dollars from the American Rescue Plan Act and CARES Act in community programs, business retention, and infrastructure improvements.

John served as the campaign manager for my opponent in my first race for the U.S. Senate. In Colorado, we believe in working together despite different political beliefs, and I came to know and respect John for his ability to work in a pragmatic fashion with everyone. John became a dependable ally and friend as we worked together to advance the interests of Colorado.

Throughout his career, John embodied the notion put forward by Wallace Stegner, that the American West is still "the native home of hope." Our great State is better for his vision, his compassion, and his service, and I wish him well in his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT JOSHUA K. LEONARD

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize CMSgt Joshua K. Leonard for his dedicated service to the U.S. Air Force and the Senate as a legislative defense fellow. Josh has served as a vital part of my team since January 2023. He has been a trusted adviser on issues relating to the Departments of Defense, Veterans Affairs, and Homeland Security.

Josh enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in June 2005. His continued service is a reminder of the dedication and sacrifice of every servicemember who protects our Nation and defends our freedoms. His effort and passion distinguished him as a valuable member of my legislative team. I am proud to have someone like Josh on my staff, who understands the significance of maintaining America's air superiority and caring for our servicemembers and their families.

During his tenure in my office, he led the charge in introducing the Gerald's Law Act. This critical initiative would expand the Department of Veterans Affairs burial benefits eligibility to terminally ill veterans who pass away at a non-VA facility while receiving hospice care. As he is soon to be promoted to the rank of chief master sergeant, Josh's character and consistent display of knowledge, leadership, and devotion deserve to be recognized and rewarded. I am confident he will continue to serve our country honorably.

I am incredibly grateful for his support on behalf of the people of Arkansas. Both in the Nation's Capital and while visiting the Natural State, he spoke with and listened to the concerns of Arkansas's veterans and their families. While stationed at the Little Rock Air Force Base, Josh worked tirelessly to ensure the concerns of our veterans and military community were heard and their issues were resolved. We have been very fortunate to have Josh serve Arkansans as a legislative defense fellow. I also want to thank his wife Mrs. Shaunta Leonard and his beloved children Josiah, Lincy, and Kayla for their support during his time in uniform. Growing up in a military family, I understand that service in the Armed Forces is a family affair and impossible without their sacrifice and unconditional support.

Josh, thank you for your continued service to the U.S. Air Force and all your heartfelt, committed work as a member of my staff. Having you on my team has been a privilege, and you will always be welcomed here. I know that you will remain an asset to our military and veterans in addition to any other endeavors you pursue; I wish you and your family the best and congratulate you on this well-deserved promotion.

TRIBUTE TO BILL LAW

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the exemplary career of Goshen County Fire Warden Bill Law. Bill is retiring after six decades of service to Torrington, Goshen County, and the State of Wyoming.

Wyoming adopted its official ethics code, known proudly as the Code of the West, in 2010. One of the principle tenets is "talk less and say more." Bill Law, a humble and devoted public servant, fully embodies this value in everything he does. He invested time, experience, and effort in each of his careers, to the benefit of others. Bill demonstrated his capacity for leadership while serving a greater cause at a young age. While in high school, he enlisted in the Wyoming National Guard. Following his graduation in 1955, he proudly enlisted in the U.S. Navy as a radio technician. He served 3 years and was honorably discharged in 1958.

Following his military service, Bill found other ways to invest in his community. He moved to Torrington, WY, in 1962 after serving 4 years as the Yoder Fire Chief. This was the first of a long line of roles in fire management.

During this time, Bill met and married the love of his life, Betty Korhonen Law. Bill and Betty raised two children, Alicia and Trevor. This year, Bill and Betty are celebrating their 60th anniversary. Theirs is a remarkable partnership that has endured all of life's challenges.

Bill began as a firefighter with the Torrington Volunteer Fire Department in 1962. Though he enjoyed other successful careers, he remained a com-

mitted TVFD member. He often put his life on hold to respond to emergencies in surrounding communities. His dedication to fire safety is unmatched. From 1969 to 1988, Bill worked for Torrington radio legend Kerm Kath, owner and operator of the local KGOS and KERM radio stations. He worked in sales and became the station manager following Kerm's death in 1982. In 1991, Bill became the State provider relations representative for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Wyoming. He worked to secure agreements with hospitals, clinics, and medical offices around the State. I was pleased to work with him during my time as an orthopedic surgeon in Casper and as a member of the Wyoming State Senate. Bill retired from Blue Cross in 2004 after a rewarding 16-year career. Shortly after retirement, the Goshen County Commission appointed Bill as the county fire warden. From 2004 to 2012, he served dual roles as the fire warden and the City of Torrington's emergency management coordinator. Bill organized the county's fire suppression and prevention efforts, including communicating with the county's 11 fire districts and 9 fire departments.

A natural leader, Bill served two terms on the Torrington City Council, from 2012 to 2020. His civic engagement also includes serving as a board member for both Eastern Wyoming College and the county chamber of commerce. Bill is a devoted member of Our Savior Lutheran Church, where he held numerous leadership positions. Bill is a remarkable advocate for rural fire districts and firefighters. He spent many years lobbying on behalf of local and State organizations and agencies. In January 2023, the Wyoming Legislature recognized Bill's years of advocacy. Given an opportunity to comment, Bill quipped, "I look at when I first put the uniform on; the first 40 (years) seemed to drag—I got to tell you, the last 20 (years) go in a hurry."

After an outstanding career in public service, I hope Bill will enjoy a well-earned retirement with his family. In addition to Betty, his legacy is celebrated by his son Trevor Law of Laramie, his daughter Alicia and Jeff Ayres of Lehi, UT, his granddaughter Emily Ayres, and great-grandchildren Mia Ayres and Drixton Ayres.

Honest and humble, Bill is a man of great integrity. He dedicated his life to serving others, making his community and state better in the process. Though his experience and wisdom will be missed, I know he will continue serving as a mentor, advocate, and trusted adviser. Bill's nephew Chuck Kenyon, Torrington's current emergency management coordinator, said of Bill, "He is the foundation that makes everything work."

Bobbi joins me in extending our congratulations to Bill for his outstanding legacy of service.

TRIBUTE TO ANI KINCAID

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Ani for her hard work as an intern in my office in Casper, WY. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Ani is a native of Lander. She is a freshman at Casper College, where she studies political science. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Ani for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her journey.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO RICH HILLMAN

● Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Arkansas Farm Bureau president, Mr. Rich Hillman, and the integral role he has had in serving the State of Arkansas and her agricultural pursuits and to celebrate his years of fervent dedication and leadership as his tenure at the helm of the organization comes to a close.

For the past 4 years, Rich has served faithfully as the Arkansas Farm Bureau State president, preceded by 11 years as vice president, and prior involvement on the Arkansas Farm Bureau board of directors dating back to 2001. His influence on the industry is further proven through his service in a number of leadership positions on the national and State levels and especially in his local community.

For more than 20 years, farm families and rural communities across the Natural State have welcomed Rich's leadership with gratitude and depended on him to be a true advocate of their needs. They have relied on him to ensure that policies developed in Washington will benefit farmers and ranchers and the communities that surround them.

Rich's leadership has been marked by wisdom gained through experience. To lead by example is a trait worthy of admiration and one that Rich has undoubtably exemplified. He is a proud sixth-generation farmer in Lonoke County, where he and his wife Tina have grown rice, soybeans, corn, and most importantly, a capable and passionate seventh-generation of agriculturalists in their children Collin and Caroline; their grandchildren; and generations to come.

It is because of people like Rich that I remain hopeful for the future of agriculture. His pragmatic advice has long been paramount in informing our work on the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition,