

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. Shauntai 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,

and Forestry Committee and been instrumental in crafting important legislation to support Arkansas agriculture.

I cherish the friendship and counsel I have found in Rich and wish to thank him again for his unwavering dedication to Arkansas's agricultural producers. Though he is stepping down from his role as Arkansas Farm Bureau State president, I know that he will continue to be a fierce advocate for the needs of the industry.

I wish Rich, Tina, and the Hillman family the best as they enter into this new chapter of their lives.●

TRIBUTE TO BRIGADIER GENERAL KAREN A. BERRY

● Mr. COONS. Mr. President, it is with great pleasure that I rise, along with Senator TOM CARPER of Delaware and Representative LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER of Delaware, to honor BG Karen A. Berry, a Delawarean who has provided exemplary service to the National Guard.

With more than three decades of distinguished military career service dedicated to the National Guard, BG Karen Berry has represented Delaware in a variety of leadership capacities, including company command of the HHC 280th Signal Battalion and Officer Candidate School, 193rd Regional Institute, and the 261st Tactical Theater Signal Brigade. She completed a yearlong deployment serving as the deputy commander of the 335th Signal Command in Afghanistan, acting as the senior communications officer and providing essential guidance for the communications network theater. Moreover, in 2019, she transferred to the Connecticut National Guard, serving in two key leadership positions: assistant to the Adjutant General Army and the Director of the Joint Staff. There, she oversaw the training and deployments of the Connecticut Army National Guard and ensured mission readiness and support to State and Partnership Programs between Connecticut and its partner Uruguay, a role critical to the success of countless overseas missions.

Brigadier General Berry has built on her extensive experience to lead with practical knowledge. Her educational background includes a bachelor of science in agricultural engineering and technology from the University of Delaware, a master's degree in education from Salisbury University, and a master's degree in strategic studies from the U.S. Army War College. Her promotions and list of major awards over the years are extensive and include National Defense Service Medals, Army Commendation Medals, and Delaware National Guard Medals for Military Merit, just to name a few.

Brigadier General Berry is also the first female Army guardsman to hold a brigade command in the Delaware Army National Guard, as well as the first female in the Delaware Army National Guard promoted to the general office rank of brigadier general. Briga-

dier General Berry has opened the door for countless others to follow, serving as an example of strong leadership, phenomenal work ethic, and service before self.

Brigadier General Berry has provided reasoned, invaluable, and experienced counsel while serving as chair of my Military Service Academy Board since my arrival in the Senate. A hallmark of Brigadier General Berry's leadership has been her high regard for the servicemembers she leads and their families. Brigadier General Berry has also been instrumental in forging enduring relationships with local community members and organizations. These bonds will serve the Delaware National Guard and Delaware communities well for years to come.

The values of hard work and serving others are second nature to the Berry family. Karen, her husband MG Michael Berry, and the entire family are known throughout the State of Delaware for their generosity and support of education and local community initiatives, sowing seeds of success for the future. We are truly grateful for all they have done to inspire the next generation of military leaders in Delaware and beyond.

We wholeheartedly congratulate BG Karen Berry on over three decades of service in the National Guard. Your strong dedication and leadership serve as a phenomenal example for many others. We wish you and your family the very best. Thank you.●

TRIBUTE TO CONNOR NICOL

● Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I am honored to recognize Connor Nicol of Hampton as November's Granite Stater of the Month. For the last 3 years, 15-year-old Connor has helped to ensure that servicemembers who died overseas are remembered. Connor creates dog tags for people to carry, or place somewhere prominent, so that servicemembers' names and sacrifice will never be forgotten.

Connor was inspired to create the military identification tags, commonly called "dog tags," while watching a movie about World War II, and he was struck by how young the servicemembers were. Knowing that many servicemembers never came home, he wanted to make sure that those who died overseas are always remembered. Using information from the National Archives, Connor has now made dog tags for 40,000 servicemembers who died in the Korean war, and he has recently expanded the project to create tags for those who died serving in the Vietnam war.

The tags have been distributed across the country, including to veterans service organizations, church groups, Scout Troops, and schools. Connor works to ensure that the tag goes to someone who actively wants it and is dedicated to honoring the name of the servicemember. In addition to keeping the name and memory of the fallen

servicemember alive, the tag also serves to remind the person carrying it of the sacrifice these men and women made in service to our country.

Connor's goal is to create and distribute dog tags for those who died in additional overseas conflicts, including World War II, the Vietnam war, and the Global War on Terror. If you would like to request a tag, you can do so through his website, www.wewillremember.us. Connor's dedication to respecting and commemorating military service is a strong reflection of the Granite State spirit of patriotism. In New Hampshire, we honor those who keep our country safe, secure, and free. I thank Connor for his work to make sure that those who died in service to our country will never be forgotten.●

TRIBUTE TO JADA VARGAS

● Mr. KELLY. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize the recipient of the 1 millionth Child Development Associate—CDA—credential. Jada Vargas is an Arizonan who is dedicated to serving her community as an early childhood educator, and I am very pleased to recognize her achievement.

Jada lives in Whiteriver, AZ, and is a member of White Mountain Apache Tribe. She also serves on the White Mountain Apache Youth Council. A recent high school graduate, Jada said she realized she wanted to become an early childhood educator after a career and technical education course that allowed her to work in a childcare center at her high school. Now, she is headed to college to study education—and, with her CDA, already has a leg up.

Early exposure to the early childhood landscape was clearly critical for Jada as she thought about her next steps after high school. And it couldn't have come at a more needed time. The childcare industry, which already standing on unsteady legs, took a heavy hit from the COVID-19 pandemic. We asked early childhood educators to be heroes as so many worked to keep their doors open so parents could do essential work. Early in my time in the Senate, I voted to pass the American Rescue Plan, which provided \$39 billion in support for childcare.

I hear from Arizonans that this funding was transformative, that childcare assistance was critical to keeping their doors open and lights on to serve families. Today, the funding provided through childcare stabilization grants has expired, yet challenges remain in finding and retaining early childhood educators. The market is still broken. Too many children remain stuck on waiting lists without the essential early education that we know makes a long-term difference.

Research tells us that if a student can't read well by the time they are in the third grade, they are more likely to drop out of high school. That has an impact on our productivity, our economy, and on our military. Early childhood educators like Jada are often the