

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](http://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

ones who are helping children develop the skills to become readers, preparing them for the years of education that lay ahead.

This is a worthwhile investment. High-quality childcare is imperative to strong communities, and I am committed to working with my colleagues to provide long-term stability and support to this industry. Part of that is finding ways to encourage more folks to dedicate their lives to the next generation—and as a CDA holder, Jada is part of that solution. She wants to return home once she finishes her education to, as she puts it, be a light to the children in her community. We are grateful to her for her hard work and dedication to the children and families she will serve as a CDA holder, and I hope to see many more Arizonans follow in her path.●

#### THE PUBLIC SERVICE REVIEW

● Mr. KELLY. Mr. President, a great privilege of my job as a U.S. Senator is having the opportunity to meet young people who are eager to serve. Talented young leaders like those featured in the Summer 2023 edition of “Public Service Review” inspire me, and I am hopeful their stories will inspire others. This edition features insightful reflections from aspiring public servants with diverse backgrounds and interests who are passionate about serving their communities, their country, and the world.

The 10 authors featured in the Summer 2023 edition are Jamya Davis of Xavier University of Louisiana, Lydia Sigman of George Mason University, Rohini Achal of the University of Washington, Christopher Robinson of Mississippi State University, Mateus Voltolini of the University of Southern Maine, Samina Patel of Georgia Institute of Technology, Tatyana Mayo of Howard University, Julia Comino of American University, Brina Ratangee of Vanderbilt University, and Tony Ruan of Yale University, whom I had the pleasure of having in my office as an intern and speaking with for his article.

The “Public Service Review” is produced by the Stennis Center for Public Service, and the Summer 2023 edition is available at [www.stennis.gov](http://www.stennis.gov). I encourage all to read it.●

#### RECOGNIZING COUNCIL MOUNTAIN COFFEE & LAUNDROMAT

● Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, Idaho small businesses are the backbone of our economy and the lifeblood of our communities, but rising costs and inflation have brought increased challenges to Main Street establishments across our State. This holiday season, I am proud to relaunch Support Local Gems All Season Long, a holiday revival of the statewide Support Local Gems initiative, which encourages Idahoans to do their holiday shopping at the small businesses that make the

Gem State special. As a member and former chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I am pleased to honor Council Mountain Coffee & Laundromat as one of Idaho’s Local Gems.

Council Mountain Coffee & Laundromat is a staple in the Council community. Owned and operated by Jacob and Samantha Sturlin since 2021, the coffee shop and laundromat are popular among locals for daily cups of coffee and visitors passing through town. The Sturlins moved to Council and bought Council Mountain Coffee & Laundromat in pursuit of a more rural lifestyle and an opportunity to get involved in the community. Council Mountain Coffee features an eclectic menu of coffees, teas, Italian sodas, pastries, seasonal specials, and all are served by the friendliest staff.

The Sturlins’ passion for the community shines through in their sponsorship of the local rodeo, vacation Bible school, and the annual Fourth of July fireworks show. They encourage even the youngest community members to get involved, allowing Council Elementary School students to decorate coffee sleeves to brighten customers’ morning joe.

Congratulations to Jacob and Samantha Sturlin and the employees at Council Mountain Coffee & Laundromat. You are an outstanding example of what it means to be one of Idaho’s Local Gems. You make our great State proud, and I look forward to your continued growth and success.●

#### RECOGNIZING 2ND SOUTH MARKET

● Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, Idaho small businesses are the backbone of our economy and the lifeblood of our communities, but rising costs and inflation have brought increased challenges to Main Street establishments across our State. This holiday season, I am proud to relaunch Support Local Gems All Season Long, a holiday revival of the statewide Support Local Gems initiative, which encourages Idahoans to do their holiday shopping at the small businesses that make the Gem State special. As a member and former chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I am pleased to honor 2nd South Market as one of Idaho’s Local Gems.

Idaho’s first food hall was born in 2019, when owners Dave and Lisa Buddecke purchased the historic 1926 Kregel Machine Company building. Paying homage to its location in Twin Falls’ historic warehouse district, 2nd South Market hosts six locally owned food vendors and full bar, which together employ more than 50 people. The food hall features 14,700 square feet of outdoor space, known as the Yard, which provides additional seating, live music, cornhole, firepits, and space for private events. 2nd South Market is a space where the Magic Valley can gather, work, socialize, and eat—a place

where the Magic Valley can build community.

The Buddeckes embraced the history of the former blacksmith, boilermaker, welding, hardware, and most recently, thrift store building, to create a vibrant epicenter for the Magic Valley. During the restoration of the building, original wood and metal paneling, doors, windows, signage, and old whiskey bottles dating back to Prohibition were recovered. A wall at the entrance of the food hall highlights many of these materials and shares the land and building’s unique story since 1907.

Congratulations to Dave and Lisa Buddecke and the vendors at 2nd South Market. You are an outstanding example of what it means to be one of Idaho’s Local Gems. You make our great State proud, and I look forward to your continued growth and success.●

#### RECOGNIZING SEVEN RIDGES AG SERVICE LLC

● Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, Idaho small businesses are the backbone of our economy and the lifeblood of our communities, but rising costs and inflation have brought increased challenges to Main Street establishments across our State. This holiday season, I am proud to relaunch Support Local Gems All Season Long, a holiday revival of the statewide Support Local Gems initiative, to encourage Idahoans to do their holiday shopping at the small businesses that make the Gem State special. As a member and former chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I am pleased to honor Seven Ridges Ag Service LLC as one of Idaho’s Local Gems.

Tad and Kayce Brown, of Kendrick, opened Seven Ridges Ag Services in 2019. After working as a service technician for a John Deere dealer for more than 11 years, Tad decided to explore his own off-road equipment repair service for the local agricultural, construction, and forestry industries. Seven Ridges originally operated out of a single truck and garage. Each year of operation, demand grew. The Browns continue to find new facilities to accommodate their customers’ demand. Most recently, Tad and Kayce joined Jimmie and Cindy Breckenridge to purchase a local parts and repair shop—Kendrick Ag & Supply—where Seven Ridges Ag Services can grow and expand.

Aside from Seven Ridges’ service repairs, Tad and Kayce actively support Kendrick’s youth through the JK Baseball Association and the Kendrick FFA. The Browns proudly support the annual Juliaetta Blackberry Festival Car Show and the University of Idaho Vandal Cheer Team.

Congratulations to Tad and Kayce Brown at Seven Ridges Ag Service LLC. You are an outstanding example of what it means to be one of Idaho’s Local Gems. You make our great State proud, and I look forward to your continued growth and success.●