

Equipment, Lloyd served in the U.S. Army from 1956 until 1958. Following his service, Lloyd saw a need in the Monticello community for shelving, pallet racks, and storage equipment. What began as an idea around the kitchen table grew, and in 1987, Welter Storage Equipment moved off the Welter family farm to its current headquarters location on South Main Street in Monticello.

Welter Storage Equipment sells both new and reconditioned warehouse equipment and office furniture acquired through auctions, liquidations, bankruptcies, closeouts, and more. They also provide storage equipment and forklifts. Over the years, Welter Storage Equipment has become a trusted local resource for office furniture and warehouse racks. The business is not only a community staple, but now sells products to customers across the United States.

Currently, the Welter Storage Equipment team operates in Cedar Rapids, Dubuque, and Monticello, with their Monticello location serving as the company's headquarters. Lloyd and Joyce's sons Ron, Dave, Dean, and Bob serve as the current owners and have seen three generations of the Welter family work at the family business. Lloyd Welter passed away in 2021, leaving behind a legacy of hard work, service, and dedication to entrepreneurial excellence.

Welter Storage Equipment is actively involved in the Monticello, Dubuque, and Cedar Rapids communities. In addition to employing more than 60 people, they have sponsored the Great Jones County Fair and have served as a business partner to the Dubuque Senior High School Drama Department. They were named a 2023 Business Hero by Animal Welfare Friends, a nonprofit that aims for the adoption and fostering of dogs and cats in the Monticello area. Due to the team's hard work, Welter Storage Equipment Company celebrated its 41st business anniversary in 2023.

Welter Storage Equipment's commitment to providing quality office, storage equipment, and furniture in Eastern Iowa is clear. I want to congratulate the Welter family and the entire team at Welter Storage Equipment for their dedication to the Monticello, Cedar Rapids, and Dubuque communities. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success in Iowa.

#### TRIBUTE TO SHERYL "SHERRY" BRANCH-MAXWELL

• Mr. SCHMITT. Madam President, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the extraordinary contributions of an exceptional individual, Ms. Sheryl Lynette Branch-Maxwell of Charleston, MO, affectionately known as Ms. Sherry. Her dedication to service and her tireless efforts in improving the lives of Southeast Missourians exemplifies the spirit of selflessness and community stewardship that inspires us all.

For over four decades, Ms. Sherry has been a pillar of support for her community. Her journey began when she dedicated herself to the well-being and development of children in daycare facilities and Head Start Centers. Her commitment to nurturing youth extended beyond the classroom as she coordinated and directed summer food programs, ensuring children had access to essential nutrition during the summer months.

Ms. Sherry's leadership and commitment to her community organizations have significantly benefited the Bootheel region of Missouri. Her work as a program educator at Lincoln University Cooperative Extension in Charleston has been pivotal in implementing programs focused on leadership, self-esteem, and anti-drug initiatives.

Another commendable accomplishment is the development of the Kids' Beat initiative. This program became a beacon of hope offering guidance and support through more than 30 clubs across all counties of the Missouri Bootheel. Ms. Sherry's dedication to empowering youth through education and mentorship is truly commendable.

Sheryl Lynette Branch-Maxwell is truly a champion of Missouri. I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in applauding Ms. Sherry, an exceptional individual whose dedication and contributions have made an indelible mark on the fabric of our community.●

#### TRIBUTE TO JIM CHAPPELL

• Mr. SCHMITT. Madam President, I rise today to honor an exceptional individual who has greatly impacted Missouri, Jim Chappell.

As founder and long-time owner of the beloved Chappell's Restaurant & Sports Museum, Jim Chappell has made an indelible impact on the culture and community of Kansas City, MO. Jim first captured the hearts of Kansas Citians through his restaurant, a cultural mainstay celebrating sports legends and hometown pride for over three decades. However, he is seen as far more than a successful restaurateur; Jim is a respected leader who has demonstrated a tremendous spirit of service across business, civic, and community organizations over his illustrious career.

Under his visionary leadership, Chappell's became far more than a place to grab drinks and watch the game; it emerged as a living museum and community touchstone, drawing praise as a one-of-a-kind local gem. The uniqueness of Chappell's Restaurant & Sports Museum was part of the reason USA Today selected it as "the number one place in the country to watch the Super Bowl." Beyond the restaurant walls, Jim lends his talents to multiple Kansas City institutions as a board member shaping influential business, banking, and civic organizations.

His insights helped guide institutions like First Bank of Missouri, Valley

View Bank, and the Kansas City Police Employees' Retirement System. Additionally, Jim upholds Kansas City's heritage through his involvement with groups like the Sons of the American Revolution and Native Sons & Daughters of Greater Kansas City. From preserving beloved traditions to promoting sports icons, he connects the community's past glories to its future potential.

Jim Chappell is truly a Champion of Missouri. Jim stands as a model Kansan through his leadership, business success, and community spirit. His enduring passion for elevating local culture lays the groundwork for generations to come. Today, we commend this esteemed individual for his impact on Missourians. I wish to extend my heartfelt gratitude to Jim Chappell for his significant contributions to the Missouri community.●

#### TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN PHILIP E. GREGORY

• Mr. SCHMITT. Madam President, I rise today to honor Captain Philip E. Gregory of Fredericktown, MO, for his service to the State of Missouri.

Captain Philip E. Gregory has been a servant leader, dedicated to keeping Missourians safe throughout his three decades of service with the Missouri State Highway Patrol. Gregory's career began in Southeast Missouri, and each patrol appointment across the State has given him the chance to give back to his community by working closely with local law enforcement and first responders.

Gregory's desire to serve his community started as early as high school where he worked in the fire service and then served as an EMT/paramedic. His career in law enforcement started when he turned 21 and has continued to this day. He credits his parents for instilling in him a strong work ethic, which provided the structure upon which he has built his career. Throughout his career, Gregory has served as a zone supervisor, a criminal investigator, a corporal, a sergeant, a lieutenant, an assistant division director, and a captain for the highway patrol. In each role, Gregory worked to better protect his neighbors. On August 1, 2023, after 30 years of dedicated service to Missouri, Captain Gregory retired.

Captain Philip Gregory is truly a Champion of Missouri. I wish Captain Gregory and his wife Tanya all the best in his well-earned retirement. Missourians are safer and better off because of his efforts and his service to his fellow Missourians.●

#### HONORING DETECTIVE SERGEANT MASON GRIFFITH

• Mr. SCHMITT. Madam President, I rise today to honor the life and memory of Detective Sergeant Mason Griffith, of Rosebud, MO. Sergeant Griffith served with the Hermann Police Department with distinction for over 12

years, until he was fatally shot on duty while responding to a call on March 12, 2023.

Sergeant Griffith made the ultimate sacrifice to protect the Hermann community. He, along with Officer Adam Sullentrup, who was also shot and put in critical condition, were responding to a disturbance at a local gas station when a shootout occurred. This incident led to a nearly 20-hour standoff with the suspect until the suspect was eventually taken into custody by Missouri Highway Patrol SWAT.

Sergeant Griffith sadly passed away at only 34 years old and truly had a servant's heart. Along with serving the Hermann Police Department for 12 years, he was also the chief of police in his hometown of Rosebud and a reserve deputy sheriff for the Gasconade County Sheriff's Office. He was a leader in his community and was described by many as one of the most caring and helpful people you could ever meet. Sergeant Griffith touched numerous lives during his life, and now, his memory lives on through his family and in his community.

Detective Sergeant Mason Griffith is truly a Champion of Missouri. His selfless service and dedication to his community inspires myself and all Missourians. Our State is safer because of Sergeant Griffith, and he truly is a hero. I ask my Senate colleagues to join me in honoring Sergeant Griffith's life, and I offer my deepest condolences to his wife Jennifer and their two children, who are in attendance today, for their loss.●

#### TRIBUTE TO NANCY BAUMGARTNER HANSON

● Mr. SCHMITT. Madam President, today I rise in recognition of a great Missourian, Nancy Baumgartner Hanson. She embodies someone who enriches their community as a service to others, loving their fellow neighbors and caring for them like family.

A resident of Fulton, MO, Nancy saw a need to create opportunities for adults with disabilities, in part because her daughter Shelby, a decorated Special Olympics athlete, recently graduated high school and was looking for a safe space to start her adult life. Not seeing options for her daughter, Nancy set out to build her own. WeBUILT is the first of its kind in Missouri. It is a self-sustaining community development that provides a safe shelter to adults with disabilities. It is maintained and owned by those living in the development.

In reporting on her efforts, a local television station reported, "Ask any parent what they would do for their child, and most would say they would go to the ends of the Earth for them. We met one mom [Nancy] who is moving the Earth to help her adult daughter find freedom and independence." Indeed, the level of effort and dedication to find a solution for her daughter and create a big enough endeavor to

share it with her community is a feat every Missourian should be proud of.

Further, Nancy's commitment to her family and community extends to empowering individuals with disabilities through programs like the iCan Bike camp. As the current host of iCan Bike in Fulton, Nancy teaches individuals with disabilities how to ride a bicycle. The program fosters independence and confidence. Nearing a decade of teaching, iCan Bike underscores Nancy's enduring commitment to making a positive difference in the lives of those with disabilities.

Nancy Baumgartner Hanson is truly a Champion of Missouri. Her accomplishments lie in the lives she has changed, the can-do attitude that she embodies to serve others, and the resulting community she has forged through her efforts. I am proud to represent her and highlight her remarkable contributions to Missouri in the U.S. Senate.●

#### TRIBUTE TO ADAM AND MELINDA HENDRIX

● Mr. SCHMITT. Madam President, I rise today to honor Adam and Melinda Hendrix of Wentzville, MO, for their inspirational work through their nonprofit, Justin Delivers Hope, or JDH.

In 2017, Adam and Melinda lost their 23-year-old son Justin to a heroin overdose. With this tragedy, the Hendrixes decided to devote themselves to helping other families who have experienced the loss of a loved one. Motivated by their loss to establish Justin Delivers Hope, this charity has done heroic work. JDH has raised money for the education and prevention of heroin and opiate abuse, distributed Narcan to family members and friends of users, and assisted local police departments by funding more K-9 units to fight drug-related crime.

Since its founding, JDH has raised enough money to fund 18 K-9 units to work in local police departments in St. Charles, MO. In 2022, these dogs have helped officers remove nearly 300 pounds of illegal drugs off the streets.

Adam and Melinda Hendrix are truly Champions of Missouri. Because of their efforts and compassion, the St. Louis community is safer and better equipped to address the tragic effects of drug abuse. I am proud to recognize both Adam and Melinda for their work on this important issue and wish them all the best as they continue to serve the citizens of Missouri.●

#### TRIBUTE TO KEVIN JEFFRIES AND JUSTIN PARRACK

● Mr. SCHMITT. Madam President, I rise today to recognize the courageous actions of Kevin Jeffries and Justin Parrack of Springfield, MO, who went above and beyond to rescue a distressed driver in their time of need.

While traveling along the highway, Kevin Jeffries and Justin Parrack noticed a driver veering off the road into

the median, which was later understood to be due to an untimely medical emergency. These two exemplary men, acting in concert, swiftly entered through the passenger side door, brought the car to a halt, administered CPR, and ultimately saved the life of the driver.

In response to their feats of heroism, they have been honored with the prestigious Honorary Trooper Award, the highest civilian honor bestowed by the Missouri State Highway Patrol. When asked about the situation, Kevin Jeffries humbly remarked, "Thank you, guys, for calling me a hero, but I just feel like I'm just Kevin," while Justin Parrack expressed, "I wouldn't call myself a hero. I'm just a guy doing and trying to do the right thing."

Both Kevin Jeffries and Justin Parrack are truly Champions of Missouri. The actions of these men are nothing short of heroic. They prevented further potential fatalities, injuries, or damages, and, most importantly, they saved the life of the driver. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding these two remarkable individuals for their selfless and courageous actions.●

#### TRIBUTE TO JOHN MEEHAN

● Mr. SCHMITT. Madam President, I rise today to honor John Meehan of Sedalia, MO, for his investment in his community and willingness to serve his fellow Missourians.

John Meehan has been a dedicated member of various community chambers and nonprofits boards, applying his knowledge of the region and his desire to cultivate relationships to make the community better.

Throughout Meehan's varied career, he has served wherever there was opportunity, including as vice president of Third National Bank from 1982 to 2009, Pettis County Presiding Commissioner from 2011 to 2014, serving on the board of directors for the United Way in Sedalia-Pettis County from 2008 to 2015, as president of the board of directors for the Sedalia Area Chamber of Commerce from 2017 to 2018, and as council chairman of the Wesley United Methodist Church from 2016 to the present. He has even joined as a cohost of a morning talk show called "Let's Talk," to promote local happenings throughout Sedalia.

John Meehan is truly a Champion of Missouri. Even in retirement, Meehan continues to be an active member of civic organizations like the Sedalia Noonday Optimist Club, the Lions Club of Sedalia, and the Sedalia Area Chamber of Commerce. I wish him and his wife Mary all the best in his retirement, though I suspect he will continue to remain quite active in his community. Missourians are better off because of his servant leadership and his dedication to his neighbors.●