

Regardless of the role he has taken on, Sawin has always been a problem-solver, a leader who strives to bring opposing sides together in a spirit of compromise and respect to reach common ground. He is a Maine treasure, a true gentleman, and I wish my friend all the best in the next phase of his inspiring life.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE JAMES K. BREDAR

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I rise to congratulate James K. Bredar upon the completion of his service as chief judge of the United States District Court for the District of Maryland and his assumption of senior status.

I was pleased to work with former Senator Barbara Mikulski to recommend Judge Bredar to President Obama for appointment as one of my first Maryland Federal judicial nominations in 2010. Notably, the Senate confirmed his nomination by unanimous consent.

Judge Bredar served with great distinction for his nearly 7-year term as chief judge. In particular, I thank Judge Bredar for his vigorous oversight of the Federal consent decree between the U.S. Justice Department and the Baltimore Police Department, which arose out of the Freddie Gray case. This consent decree, when fully implemented, will guarantee effective, fair, and constitutional policing to Baltimore City residents.

I have greatly appreciated Judge Bredar's tireless advocacy for the needs of the judges, litigants, witnesses, court personnel, and visitors to the Federal courthouses in Baltimore and Greenbelt.

The Chief Justice of the United States showed his confidence in Judge Bredar's abilities through his past appointment as a member of the Judicial Conference Committee on Federal-State Jurisdiction, as well his continuing service on the Judicial Conference Committee on the Budget.

I understand that Judge Bredar will continue to perform substantial judicial service as a judge on senior status, including taking on a new assignment to handle the complex litigation arising out of the recent *Dali* ship disaster at the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore.

I congratulate Judge Bredar again for his remarkable service on the court. Marylanders can be proud and thankful of his extraordinary service to uphold the rule of law and to provide equal justice under the law to everyone who enters his courtroom. Judge Bredar has indeed lived up to his judicial oath to "administer justice without respect to persons, and do equal right to the poor and to the rich."

I extend my best wishes to Judge Bredar as he continues his service on the Federal bench in senior status.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOSHUA SCOTT KONCAR

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Madam President, today I wish to recognize LTC Joshua S. Koncar, U.S. Army, for his outstanding work on behalf of the people of Illinois and the Nation. Lieutenant Colonel Koncar served as a 2021 Department of Defense legislative fellow in my Washington, DC, office and later as a U.S. Army Reserve congressional liaison from 2022–2024. Lieutenant Colonel Koncar was born in Sharon, PA. The grandson of a World War II veteran, the son of a third-generation steelworker, and brother to a U.S. Marine, Joshua enlisted in the Army Reserve in August 2001. Joshua served in Operation Iraqi Freedom from March 2003 to April 2004 as an operations non-commissioned officer and attained the rank of staff sergeant before receiving a direct commission to second lieutenant in 2007. As a logistician, Joshua has served in various leadership and broadening assignments throughout his Army career. During his congressional tenure, Joshua has been integral in shaping the priorities of the U.S. Army, and as a Defense fellow, he helped me secure several provisions in the Fiscal Year 2022 National Defense Authorization Act—FY22 NDAA—that will make our country stronger and safer. During his time in my office, Joshua led my staff in orchestrating important legislative provisions for the Department of Defense. He authored sections of NDAA language, including one of my top concerns regarding modifying special and incentive pay authorities for reserve component members—Incentive Pay Parity. His contributions—both to office morale and to our collective work—are emblematic of his phenomenal character, competence, and strong work ethic.

Joshua demonstrates a level of professionalism and hard work I have come to expect—but not take for granted—from the Department of Defense and U.S. Army soldiers. Indeed, he follows a long line of accomplished Department of Defense legislative fellows who have made impactful contributions to my office and U.S. national security policy. He distinguished himself as an Army officer, setting a high bar and providing invaluable advice and insights as he advised me on wide-ranging and complex matters under consideration before the Senate Armed Services Committee. Joshua's servant leadership showed in his work as a congressional liaison for the U.S. Army Reserve. His attention to detail and ability to effectively communicate with Congress became apparent as he successfully advanced key Army Reserve legislative initiatives and priorities.

Joshua will soon transition to his new duty assignment and attend Senior Service College at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. On behalf of my colleagues and the U.S. Congress, I thank Joshua for his dedicated service to my staff, the U.S. Army, and

the Nation. Part of what makes the U.S. military the greatest in the history of the world is that servicemembers like Joshua dedicate their lives to service and sacrifice for this country. Lieutenant Colonel Koncar does not do it alone, so I also acknowledge the support of his family—his wife Melissa. I wish them all the best in what I know is a bright future.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT GENERAL A.C. ROPER

• Mrs. BRITT. Madam President, I wish to recognize and congratulate LTG A.C. Roper on his retirement as the Deputy Commander of the United States Northern Command and Vice Commander of the American element of the North American Aerospace Defense Command. I know that I speak for people across Alabama in expressing my gratitude for his countless contributions to our Nation.

General Roper, a native of Birmingham, earned a bachelor's degree at Troy State University, a master's degree in criminal justice from the University of Alabama, and a master of strategic studies from the U.S. Army War College.

He has served a total of 42 years, between Active and Reserve, including deployments to combat zones, as well as disaster response. In addition to his distinguished military service, General Roper's public service to his community includes 33 years of law enforcement service in Montgomery, Hoover, and Birmingham, where he served as the chief of police. His legacy of dedicated service to his community, State, and Nation is deserving of the highest honor and admiration.

General Roper's remarkable military career began when he was commissioned into the U.S. Army in 1983 at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. His military education includes the Chemical Officer Basic and Advance Courses, Public Affairs Officers Course, Equal Opportunity Advisors Course, Inspector General Course, Combined Arms Staff Services School, Command and General Staff College, Joint Senior Reserve Component Officer Course, Defense Support to Civil Authorities Course, National Defense University's CAPSTONE Course, the NORTHCOM Joint Task Force Commanders Course, and Harvard University's National and International Security Seminar.

He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy, the FBI National Executive Institute, where he served as an adjunct professor of criminal justice. He specialized in protecting critical infrastructure and served on the executive board of the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force.

General Roper's other general officer level assignments included Deputy Commanding General, U.S. Army Reserve Command, Fort Bragg, NC, and

Deputy Chief, Army Reserve, Office of the Chief of Army Reserve, headquartered at the Pentagon, Washington, DC. Prior to this assignment, he commanded the 76th Operational Response Command in Salt Lake City, UT, which was the USAR's all hazard response command. He also served as Commanding General—80th Training Command (OPCON to TRADOC), Acting Deputy Commanding General—CBRN, 335th Signal Command, and Commander of the 415th CBRN Brigade, where he was dual-hatted as the Task Force Operations Commander, JTF-51, ARNORTH for the C2CRE-A homeland response mission.

During General Roper's service, he deployed to Saudi Arabia during Operation Desert Shield, to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, and supported Joint Task Force Andrew relief operations in southern Florida.

His awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit with two oakleaf clusters, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with three oakleaf clusters, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Combat Action Badge, and various other accolades. He also served as a principal member of the Secretary of the Army's Army Reserve Forces Policy Committee and the Secretary of Defense's Reserve Forces Policy Board.

On behalf of the people of the great State of Alabama and our Nation, I offer Lieutenant General Roper my heartfelt thanks and wish him a long and happy retirement with his wife Edith and their two daughters. His career is defined by extraordinary devotion to the safety and security of his community and country. We truly owe him a debt of gratitude for his exemplary service to Alabama and the United States of America.●

TRIBUTE TO FLO DAPICE

● Ms. HASSAN. Madam President, I am honored to recognize Flo Dapice of Hopkinton as May's Granite Stater of the Month. At just 16 years old, Flo is working to improve environmental sustainability at her school and in her town by leading her school's Environmental Action Club efforts and by serving in local government positions.

Flo's long-time interest in sustainability made her a perfect fit for the Environmental Action Club at her high school. She led the club in applying for grants from the New Hampshire Energy Education Project and the Hopkinton Public Schools Foundation. The club was awarded more than \$11,000, which allowed it to start a compost program at their school for lunch food waste. The club has evaluated the program and already found a decrease in how much compostable waste is ending up in the trash from last year to this year. Now, Flo and her fellow club members are continuing to work to strengthen the program and, in turn, lead to less food waste at the school.

The next project that Flo and the club are planning is a transition to using metal silverware in the school's cafeteria, instead of disposable plastic utensils. They have already purchased the silverware through more grant funding and are recruiting students to help wash the extra dishes. Flo is also planning to continue her involvement with the New Hampshire Energy Education Project, which works with students and teachers to build a deeper understanding of energy and climate; she recently helped lead a middle school summit with the program.

In addition to sustainability efforts at school, Flo has sought out additional opportunities for public service so that she can make more of a difference. She became interested in local government in middle school during the Covid-19 pandemic, and she now serves as one of two student representatives on the Hopkinton School Board and as a member of Hopkinton's Energy Steering Committee. Her service on the school board strengthened her efforts to apply for grants for her school's compost program, and on both the School Board and the Energy Committee, she has pushed for more ways to reduce carbon emissions.

Flo's dedication to serving her community through combating climate change is a great example of the Granite State spirit of working to make a difference, no matter your age. Her passion for bettering her school and her town is why I am honored to recognize her as Granite Stater of the Month.●

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FORT KEOGH LIVESTOCK LAB

● Mr. TESTER. Madam President, I rise today to honor the longstanding work of the Fort Keogh Livestock and Range Research Laboratory.

Today, Montana's very own Fort Keogh Livestock Range and Research Laboratory is celebrating its 100th anniversary. Since 1924, Fort Keogh has done critically important and cutting-edge research on a wide range of agricultural areas from beef and cattle to soil and drought, truly making this facility a leader in agriculture across the West. The work being done at Fort Keogh benefits not only our State's family farmers and ranchers, but all of our Nation's rural communities.

As a third-generation Montana farmer, I have seen firsthand the importance of their agricultural research to Montana's producers, and I can say with confidence that the hard work of the folks at Fort Keogh plays a key role in keeping agriculture the No. 1 industry in Montana. Every dollar that is invested in this critical research is returned to the community, and it is research that is done at this facility that informs policy decisions like those we make here.

I am proud to have consistently fought for funding for this facility, and I appreciate all of the people at Fort

Keogh that have kept this facility alive for 100 years.

So thank you to all the folks that have played a role in the Fort Keogh Livestock Lab, and congratulations. I look forward to the next 100.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Stringer, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and a withdrawal which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

NOTICE OF THE INTENT TO DESIGNATE KENYA AS A MAJOR NON-NATO ALLY—PM 55

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with section 517 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended (22 U.S.C. 2321k), I am providing notice of my intent to designate Kenya as a Major Non-NATO Ally.

I am making this designation in recognition of Kenya's many years of contributions to the United States Africa Command area of responsibility and globally and in recognition of our own national interest in deepening bilateral defense and security cooperation with the Government of Kenya. Kenya is one of the United States Government's top counterterrorism and security partners in sub-Saharan Africa, and the designation will demonstrate that the United States sees African contributions to global peace and security as equivalent to those of our Major Non-NATO Allies in other regions. I appreciate the support of the Congress in this action.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.
THE WHITE HOUSE, May 23, 2024.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:02 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1097. An act to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Everett Alvarez, Jr., in recognition of his service to the Nation.

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

The President Pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY) announced that on today,