

deserve as to when to have children as well as whether.

This decision is deeply personal. I shouldn't have to say it. It should be a matter of assumption, but politicians in this building and in State capitols around the country take on the right to make that decision for everyone else, not just themselves.

If my Republican colleagues really care about families and children, I would suggest they turn their attention to improving their lives in this world and support families rather than forcing people to have children that maybe they are not prepared to care for. And if they really care about women, how about maternal healthcare? I am struck by the fact—in fact, I am haunted by it—that maternal mortality rates in this country have actually been rising. Maternal mortality rates in the United States of America have been rising over recent years. It seems incomprehensible. Yes, we have cut infant mortality rates, but women still face heart disease, hemorrhage, infection, other kinds of complications, either before they give birth or within the year afterward and, of course, the mental health issues that can arise.

To my Republican colleagues, if you care about women, let's support the moms who decide to have children but leave to them the decision about whether and when.

In addition to determining their own futures, access to contraception is also access to critical healthcare. Since the landmark decision in Griswold, millions of women have safely used contraception to improve health outcomes for themselves, and birth control is revolutionary to anyone who has a life-threatening condition that prevents them from having a healthy pregnancy. Restricting access to birth control puts people in danger, preventable danger. Nearly 90 percent of women of reproductive age have used some form of birth control, and an overwhelming percentage of voters believe access to contraception is a basic right. It is a basic right.

Overturning Roe represented a significant regression in our law, in morality, in practical health outcome. In the blink of an eye, younger generations were set back before their moms in their basic rights and protection, their access to healthcare.

We have a responsibility in this body, at the pinnacle of our Federal system, to make sure that there is Federal protection against the attacks on reproductive care and ensure that generations of Americans don't have fewer rights than their parents. This bill is urgent in light of the continuing attack in State legislatures on women's access to healthcare and reproductive rights.

I wish we weren't here, but we are, and we need to do the right thing. My colleagues have a choice. They can either support a woman's right to access contraception or they can oppose this

bill and oppose that right. I think there really is no question about how that choice should be made, and I hope they will make it tomorrow when we vote on this measure.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO JEFF ANDRIEU

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to offer my sincere gratitude and appreciation to Jeff Andrieu, a lieutenant colonel in the Air National Guard for his exemplary service and unwavering commitment. From his beginning as a civil engineer in the Louisiana Air Guard, to his current role as an Air National Guard military construction liaison, he has attained a mastery of the military construction process benefiting Congress, the Department of Defense, and the National Guard.

Lieutenant Colonel Andrieu has been a trusted adviser and source of knowledge bridging the conversation between the National Guard and Congress. During his time as a congressional liaison, he consistently demonstrated unparalleled commitment and his expert level knowledge was instrumental in advancing congressional objectives and intent regarding our military facilities. His commitment to excellence and his support of staff and the mission should be a model for all.

As Jeff transitions from the National Guard Bureau legislative liaison to his next assignment, I want to recognize him for over 26 years of distinguished service and wish him the best in his next chapter of service to our Nation. His presence here will be missed.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING FARMERS HEN HOUSE

• Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize Farmers Hen House of Kalona, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

In 1997, Eldon T. Miller started Farmers Hen House in Kalona. The business produced and distributed organically

grown eggs and partnered with three local Amish and Mennonite farms to create a pathway for farmers across Iowa to sell their eggs. Eldon is well known in the organic farming community and founded Organic Growers Group in 1995 to help farmers learn about organic farming and obtain organic grower certifications. In 2000, Eldon's neighbor Mark Miller acquired Farmers Hen House, and in 2004, Mark's son Ryan joined the company. Under Mark and Ryan Miller's leadership, the business has grown into a full-service producer, processor, and distributor of Iowa-grown eggs.

Today, Farmers Hen House works with over 90 farms to sell certified humane, organic, and free-range eggs. The business is dedicated to maintaining quality standards in their eggs and has a rigorous egg grading facility. In 2014, Farmers Hen House partnered with the Farmers Electric Cooperative to install solar panels at their processing facility, and it has been running entirely on solar power since 2016. Following Mark Miller's retirement in 2021, Ryan Miller became president of the business.

Ryan has led the way in implementing outreach for Farmers Hen House, collaborating with culinary experts to develop a variety of healthy egg recipes, creating a podcast called "The Scramble," and writing a community blog to inform farmers about sustainable farming techniques and other tips and tricks.

Farmers Hen House is an integral part of the community in Washington County. Along with educating and assisting local farmers, the business donates over 12,000 eggs a week to local food banks around the State. In 2023, the Federation Bank of Iowa spotlighted Farmers Hen House for their significant investment in Iowa and small local farms. The small business continues to modernize and emphasize the quality and sustainability of their eggs. Due to their hard work, Farmers Hen House will celebrate its 27th business anniversary this year.

Farmers Hen House's commitment to providing high-quality eggs in Kalona, IA, is clear. I want to congratulate Mark and Ryan Miller, Eldon T. Miller, and the entire team at Farmers Hen House for their continued dedication to Iowans. I look forward to seeing your continued growth and success.●

REMEMBERING COLONEL WILEY M. POPE

• Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the legacy of Colonel Wiley M. Pope, who fought to free his family from slavery and secured the first emancipation in the history of Kansas.

In 1860, Colonel Pope fled from Mississippi to Kansas with his wife and 13 children. Because his wife was Black and his children were biracial, Mississippi law dictated that they could be seized from him and sold as slaves to

recover debts he owed. He approached Judge Chadwick of Lawrence, KS, to plead for protection from any law enforcement or bounty hunters that might have tried to capture his wife and children. Moved by Colonel Pope's struggle, Judge Chadwick granted the very first emancipation in Kansas 3 years before President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, ending slavery nationwide.

As free citizens, the Pope family became one of the five original families to settle in the town of Quindaro, KS. Before the Emancipation Proclamation was signed, the entire community banded together to ensure the Pope family was safe from harm and to help other escaped slaves who entered Kansas through an Underground Railroad route from Missouri. Although the town is no longer inhabited, the ruins of Quindaro still stand today as a monument to the abolition of slavery.

Though he died well over 100 years ago, Colonel Pope's descendants continue to carry on his legacy. His fifth granddaughter Lisa King serves as president of the Charles E. Pope Foundation, a nonprofit that seeks to empower people and businesses to thrive by rediscovering the love and bonds that encouraged their ancestors to seek freedom and build their community.

I now ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Colonel Wiley M. Pope, a man who overcame countless obstacles in search of freedom for his family.●

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT ALVIN LYNCH

● Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, this month, I am proud to recognize U.S. Army Sergeant Alvin Lynch of Muscle Shoals. Born in Hamilton, AL, Alvin was drafted for the Vietnam War at age 21. He was deployed as part of the 82nd Airborne Division, participating in some of the most intense combat operations in Vietnam. Alvin was wounded in action, and had multiple brushes with death.

On one particular night, he decided to sleep on the small air mattress provided to him, instead of sleeping on the ground as he normally did. This decision to sleep on an air mattress would save his life. The mattress absorbed the blow of a piece of shrapnel from a nearby explosion, keeping it from hitting him instead. Another time, he escaped a battle in the jungle with a shoulder wound that left him in the hospital for 3 weeks. He was one of the few men in his platoon to survive the encounter.

Alvin credits the prayers of his wife and local church members for bringing him home safely. He received several awards for his heroism, including a Purple Heart and Bronze Star. For more than 40 years, he has been providing heating and cooling services to The Shoals region.

In 1981, he began working at C & H Cooling and Heating. He bought the business in 2006 with a friend and still

runs it today. Alvin credits the military for teaching him discipline and how to deal with stressful situations that businessowners often experience. But the most important thing Alvin took away from his time in the military is his faith, and he does not shy away from sharing his testimony with others.

Alvin is now actively involved in Grace Life Church in Muscle Shoals, where he serves as an elder. Alabama is thankful for Alvin, and it is my honor to recognize him as the June Veteran of the Month.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

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

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

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:19 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Allie, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1098. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 50 East Derry Road in East Derry, New Hampshire, as the "Chief Edward B. Garone Post Office".

H.R. 1555. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2300 Sylvan Avenue in Modesto, California, as the "Corporal Michael D. Anderson Jr. Post Office Building".

H.R. 1687. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6444 San Fernando Road in Glendale, California, as the "Paul Ignatius Post Office".

H.R. 1823. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 207 East Fort Dade Avenue in Brooksville, Florida, as the "Specialist Justin Dean Coleman Memorial Post Office Building".

H.R. 3608. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 28081 Marguerite Parkway in Mission Viejo, California, as the "Major Megan McClung Post Office Building".

H.R. 5034. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2119 Market Square in Christiansted, St. Croix, United States Virgin Islands, as the "Lieutenant General Samuel E. Ebbesen Post Office".

H.R. 5476. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1077 River Road, Suite 1, in Washington Crossing, Pennsylvania, as the "Susan C. Barnhart Post Office".

H.R. 5640. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 12804 Chillicothe Road in Chesterland,

Ohio, as the "Sgt. Wolfgang Kyle Weninger Post Office Building".

H.R. 5712. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 220 Fremont Street in Kiel, Wisconsin, as the "Trooper Trevor J. Casper Post Office Building".

H.R. 5985. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 517 Seagaze Drive in Oceanside, California, as the "Charlesetta Reece Allen Post Office Building".

H.R. 6073. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 9925 Bustleton Avenue in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, as the "Sergeant Christopher David Fitzgerald Post Office Building".

H.R. 6188. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 420 Highway 17 North in Surfside Beach, South Carolina, as the "Nancy Yount Childs Post Office Building".

H.R. 6651. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 603 West 3rd Street in Necedah, Wisconsin, as the "Sergeant Kenneth E. Murphy Post Office Building".

H.R. 6750. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 501 Mercer Street Southwest in Wilson, North Carolina, as the "Milton F. Fitch, Sr. Post Office Building".

H.R. 6810. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 518 North Ridgewood Drive in Sebring, Florida, as the "U.S. Army Air Corps Major Thomas B. McGuire Post Office Building".

H.R. 6983. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 15 South Valdosta Road in Lakeland, Georgia, as the "Nell Patten Roquemore Post Office".

H.R. 7180. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 80 1st Street in Kingsland, Arkansas, as the "Kingsland 'Johnny Cash' Post Office".

H.R. 7192. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 333 West Broadway in Anaheim, California, as the "Dr. William I. 'Bill' Kott Post Office Building".

H.R. 7199. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at S74w16860 Janesville Road, in Muskego, Wisconsin, as the "Colonel Hans Christian Heg Post Office".

H.R. 7417. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 135 West Spring Street in Titusville, Pennsylvania, as the "Edwin L. Drake Post Office Building".

H.R. 7606. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1087 Route 47 South in Rio Grande, New Jersey, as the "Carlton H. Hand Post Office Building".

H.R. 7607. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at Block 1025, Lots 18 & 19, Northeast Corner of US Route 9 South and Main Street in the Township of Middle, County of Cape May, New Jersey, as the "George Henry White Post Office Building".

H.R. 7893. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 306 Pickens Street in Marion, Alabama, as the "Albert Turner, Sr. Post Office Building".

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1098. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located