

world, but opportunity is not." From the very beginning of his career, Paul knew that in a country like ours, where we believe that our democracy's promise belongs to everyone, we have to do better to expand opportunity to more students.

With this challenge in mind, Paul helped revolutionize the modern classroom through innovative online and hybrid programs, giving more students the tools that they need to embark on exciting new careers. SNHU has not only opened doors of opportunity for Granite Staters and other Americans, but for students all across the world. Under his leadership, SNHU even began offering courses to students living in refugee camps or who have been displaced. During my time as Governor and now as Senator, I have had the privilege to work with Paul in his mission to make education more accessible. I have seen firsthand his vision and ability, traits that have made him one of the most respected voices in higher education. His creativity is boundless, and his care for his students is at the center of all that he does. Through his pioneering spirit, he is always trying to find ways to give more students the chance to gain an education, learn more about our world, and build better lives.

When taking measure of his achievements, it can be easy to get lost in a sea of statistics—the number of students who earned a degree under his tenure, the number of countries that have students enrolled at SNHU, the honors and recognitions won by SNHU, and more. But behind these statistics are people whose lives have been made better, in part, thanks to Paul and SNHU. Across the country—and indeed, the world—there are people who were able to follow their dream to start their own business, become a nurse, serve as a teacher, and build a better life for themselves and their family because of Paul LeBlanc and SNHU. By modernizing higher education and making it more accessible, Paul and SNHU have helped give hope to countless learners of all ages, helping them understand that higher education is a dream that can belong to them, too. In so doing, Paul has not only helped strengthen higher education in America; he has helped expand our democracy's promise to more Americans.

For his innovative work in revolutionizing higher education, for his commitment to tearing down barriers and expanding opportunity, and for the countless lives he has helped transform, I am honored to recognize Paul LeBlanc and to thank him for his incredible service to New Hampshire and our country. I have no doubt that, with the same pioneering spirit that defined his tenure as president, Paul will continue to find ways to give more people a chance to pursue higher education and follow their highest aspirations. Paul represents the Granite State's—and our Nation's—spirit at its very best.●

TRIBUTE TO SHERRY VESTAL

● Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I am honored to recognize Sergeant Sherry Vestal as she begins her retirement after over 20 years of service as a New Hampshire State Trooper.

A New Hampshire native, Sherry taught English at the New Hampton School before joining the New Hampshire State Police in November 2003, spending 10 years protecting and serving the North Country. In 2013, Sherry joined the small team tasked with protecting the Governor of New Hampshire, a role in which she remained until her retirement.

During my time as Governor, Sherry usually worked the evening shift, often dropping me off at home after my family—and a good portion of the rest of the State—was asleep. There is a special bond between leaders and members of their protection teams, and this is particularly true in New Hampshire, where the team for most of my time in office was only two people. I saw firsthand how Sherry could defuse tense situations with a little bit of humor and a whole lot of composure. And over the course of our many long hours together, I also saw how Sherry kept not only my safety in mind, but the safety of everyone around her.

While Sherry's primary duty as a member of the Governor's detail was the Governor's safety, Sherry was still a New Hampshire State Trooper; and if I wasn't in the car with her, she would routinely stop the car when there was an emergency to respond to. And because, in New Hampshire, State troopers can be spread pretty thin, sometimes she would need to stop for an emergency even if I was in the car with her. In fact, once while we were returning from a commencement ceremony at White Mountains Community College in Berlin, we passed a motorist who had struck a moose. Sherry asked my permission to turn around, and while waiting for additional help, she called for assistance for the motorist, helped provide first-aid to—thankfully—minor wounds, and searched for the injured moose while also managing a growing number of passersby and on-lookers. No matter the situation, Sherry was laser focused on protecting the safety not only of the Governor, but of every Granite Stater.

Sherry's dedication to public service is not surprising for anyone who knows her. It is what has come to define her entire career—taking on tough challenges to keep Granite Staters safe. Sherry first became a State trooper when it was less common to see women serving in law enforcement. After a decade of patrolling the North Country alone in a police cruiser, she traveled up and down the Granite State for 11 years on the executive protection detail. In each of these roles, she not only met every challenge head on, but she raised the standards while doing it.

New Hampshire is safer thanks to Sergeant Sherry Vestal's service to our State. On behalf of all Granite Staters,

I offer her our sincere gratitude and a congratulations on her retirement.●

TRIBUTE TO MITCH HOLTHUS

● Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and recognize Mr. Mitch Holthus of Smith Center, KS.

Mitch is the play-by-play announcer and the voice of the Kansas City Chiefs. After three decades as a decorated announcer, Holthus is the longest tenured voice in franchise history. During every Chiefs game, "Touchdown, KAN-SAS-CITY!" can be heard thundering throughout the Chiefs kingdom. Today, because of his impact on football commentary and as a son of Kansas, Mitch Holthus is honored with the 2024 Kansan of the Year Award.

Mitch grew up on a farm in Smith Center, KS, and the valuable lessons he learned there gave him the work ethic needed to become who he is today. He graduated from Kansas State University with a bachelors in journalism and business administration. A devoted family man of Christian faith, Mitch is married to Tami Johnson of McPherson, KS, and together, they have two wonderful children.

The foundations of his incredible career began as a broadcaster calling games for the Pratt High School Greenbacks. In 1983, Mitch continued his career as the voice of the K-State Wildcats and worked for 13 years on the K-State Radio Network. Since 1994, he has been the Voice of the Kansas City Chiefs. His work includes multiple Super Bowls, hosting the Hy-Vee Chiefs Insider Television show, the Chiefs Field Pass Pregame show, the Chiefs Rewind show, and the "Minute with Mitch" radio and television series. Mitch delivers a comprehensive and precise analysis of the sport that we all love. It is no surprise that he has earned a litany of awards and accolades. He is a member of the Kansas Association of Broadcasters Hall of Fame, the Kansas State University Athletics Hall of Fame, the Missouri Broadcasters Association Hall of Fame, and has received the Kansas City Sports Journalist of the Year, the Hod Humiston Award of Excellence by the Kansas Association of Broadcasters, and five Emmys.

Mitch's passion, loyalty, and hard work for the game is an inspirational template for future announcers and broadcasters. As the voice for the greatest football team in the world, Mitch is a strong ambassador for Kansas and embodies our values. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing his amazing career, and I wish him nothing but the best in the following years and as he continues his work. We are proud to call him a Kansan, and the people of Kansas thank him for his dedication to the Chiefs and the State.

"You can doubt the Chiefs, you can dislike the Chiefs, you can disrespect the Chiefs. But you're going to have to deal with the Chiefs," Mitch Holthus at the 2022 AFC Championship victory over the Bengals.●

TRIBUTE TO BRUCE “DD” MACRAE

• Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the more than 45-year career of Bruce “DD” MacRae, vice president of U.S. Government affairs for the West Region of UPS, ahead of his September retirement.

Bruce grew up and attended school in Long Beach, CA, and is a second generation Long Beach native. In 1978, he began his UPS career unloading trucks in the Anaheim package facility. By 1983, he became a full-time driver and Teamster Union shop steward. And in 1987, Bruce entered management when he was promoted to preload supervisor.

Bruce has risen through the ranks, acquiring skills in operations, industrial engineering, customer relations, community and public relations, security investigations, and U.S. Government affairs.

In addition to his regional government affairs responsibilities, Bruce has played an active role in his community. He serves as the chairman of both the Los Angeles Sheriff’s Youth Foundation and the board of trustees of the Battleship USS *Iowa*. He also serves on the boards of California State University Long Beach Athletics, the Orange County Sheriff’s Advisory Council, the California Renewable Transportation Alliance, Truckers Against Trafficking, and numerous other civic and educational organizations. Bruce is a past president of the California Trucking Association and has held leadership roles in the Arizona, Nevada, and Hawaii trucking associations.

Bruce’s contributions have left an indelible mark on his community, on his State, and on the tens of thousands of employees who work for UPS in California.

As Bruce embarks on this new chapter in his life, his absence will undoubtedly be felt by all those fortunate enough to have collaborated—or enjoyed a cigar—with him. I extend my heartfelt wishes to Bruce and his family for a joyful retirement.●

REMEMBERING WILLIAM F. PICKARD

• Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of William F. Pickard, a distinguished entrepreneur, education advocate, business titan, philanthropist, and co-owner of the Michigan Chronicle, who passed away on June 12, 2024, at the age of 83.

William Pickard was born on January 28, 1941, in La Grange, GA. He earned degrees from Flint Mott College, Western Michigan University, the University of Michigan, and Ohio State University. His entrepreneurial journey began in 1971 with the purchase of his first McDonald’s franchise in Detroit, later expanding to own several franchises.

In 1982, President Ronald Reagan appointed him as the first Chairman of the African Development Foundation.

He continued to diversify his ventures, including purchasing Regal Plastics Company in 1984, founding Bearwood Management Company, Inc., in 1987, and serving on the National Advisory Committee on Trade Policy and the Federal Home Loan Bank Board under President George H.W. Bush.

In 1998, Pickard founded Grupo Antolin Primera Automotive Systems and ARD Logistics, followed by Vitec LLC in 1999. He also invested in the MGM Grand Casino in Detroit and founded the Global Automotive Alliance, a holding company for several automotive parts manufacturers. His influence extended to the media industry in 2003 when he helped fund Real Times Media, LLC, which acquired the Chicago Defender and other African-American-owned newspapers.

Throughout his career, Pickard received numerous accolades, including the Distinguished Alumni Award from Western Michigan University in 1980 and being named Michiganian of the Year by the Detroit News in 2001. In 2016, Michigan Governor Rick Snyder appointed him as a trustee on the Western Michigan Board of Trustees. He published “Millionaire Moves: Seven Proven Principles of Entrepreneurship” in 2017, the same year Western Michigan University named a residence hall in his honor.

In addition to his business accomplishments, Pickard was a co-managing partner of MGM Grand Detroit Casino and co-owner of five Black-owned newspapers, including the Michigan Chronicle. His extensive philanthropic efforts supported causes such as the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, the Motown Historical Museum, the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, and the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

Pickard’s dedication to education and community development was exemplified by his generous contributions to Western Michigan University, his alma mater, and Wayne County Community College District. In recognition of his lifetime of service and philanthropy, he was awarded the Michigan Lifetime Humanitarian Award in 2019.

I trust that my Senate colleagues will join me in recognizing the extraordinary contributions of William F. Pickard and extending our heartfelt condolences to his family and loved ones. His legacy will continue to inspire and uplift future generations.●

TRIBUTE TO WAYNE DAVENPORT

• Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, when we think of coaches, we often think of athletic coaches. But our students also need dedicated academic coaches, like U.S. Army LTC Wayne Davenport of Trussville, AL. Wayne enlisted in the Army in 1985 after graduating from Huffman High School in Birmingham, AL. He served for 22 years, with tours in South America and Afghanistan as an officer in the 20th

Special Forces Group. Because of his gift for building successful teams, Wayne was chosen to help redesign the special forces group following 9/11. His blueprint is still used to this day.

After retiring from the military, Wayne’s desire to serve took him into education. And for 15 years, he has been using his talents to help students find confidence and reach new heights as the JROTC instructor at Gadsden High School. His supervisor describes him as a “Godsend.” This is evidenced by both his success and the success of his students. Recently, Gadsden High’s JROTC team became the first program in Alabama to place as one of the most elite 32 academic bowl teams out of more than 2,000 teams in the world. But, that is not all.

Wayne also serves as the coach for Gadsden High’s scholars bowl team, where he has led four teams to the national championship. He spends many early mornings and late nights preparing for these competitions without complaint. Additionally, Wayne is helping build a culture of academic excellence that begins long before students reach high school age. Now, he is training elementary teachers on how to begin preparing students at an early age so that Alabama’s students can compete at all levels with other States.

I join the city of Gadsden and the State of Alabama in expressing our deep gratitude for Wayne’s dedication to helping educate and influence the next generation. It is my honor to recognize him as the July Veteran of the Month.●

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

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.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2023, the Secretary of the Senate, on June 25, 2024, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 138. An act to amend the Tibetan Policy Act of 2002 to modify certain provisions of that Act.

H.R. 2365. An act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out a