

Tribes, a rich source of cultural history and a tremendous Tribal ambassador.

Ted was born in an extraordinary place, and to Idaho's great benefit, he, thankfully, returned in adulthood and advocated for the people of the Duck Valley Reservation. The Duck Valley Indian Reservation is nearly 289,819 acres that straddles the Idaho-Nevada State line in the beautiful and remote, high desert of Owyhee County, ID, and Elko County, NV. Approximately 1,700 of the 2,000 members of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of Duck Valley also live on the Duck Valley Reservation. Ted served his people admirably for decades through his roles as Tribal Chairman, from 2017 to 2021, and as the Director of Cultural Resources for 25 years for the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes.

Ted used his skills as a certified pilot to assist with medical emergencies and survey and protect remote Shoshone-Paiute cultural sites in the area. He has also helped overcome considerable natural resources challenges, including the Murphy Complex Fire in 2007. This enormous fire that burned an estimated more than 650,000 acres among other difficulties left the Duck Valley Indian Reservation without power for nearly 2 weeks. In a news story about the fire, he reflected, "It was just one of those times when we had to make the best of the situation." This quote is emblematic of his approach. He faced difficulties with calm, resourcefulness, and strength.

From Owyhee County to Washington, DC, we valued working with Ted with his knowledge and capabilities. He was a central partner in helping the locally driven Owyhee Initiative become the law that reinforced the collaborative efforts to manage the magnificent landscape he cherished. Throughout, he worked hard to ensure the lands remain a sacred place for the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes. He was also instrumental in advocating the needs of the Tribes as we worked to advance the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation Water Rights Settlement Act and, later, the legislative fix to allow the Tribes to collect interest owed from the Settlement Act. Ted led efforts of Tribes across the Great Basin working for the repatriation of their ancestors.

Ted was raised as a cowboy and was known for his skill on a horse and working with leather. He took those lessons of hard work and commitment to everything he did. He was renowned for his service to the people. He enlisted in the U.S. Army at the age of 16 and served two tours in the Central Highlands of Vietnam. Ted's commitment to his heritage was evident through his service as a Sundancer, taking part in the annual summer solstic ritual, focusing on the greater good of the community, reconnecting with the earth and receiving spiritual guidance from ancestors. He was widely respected for his extensive cultural and spiritual knowledge of traditional Shoshone and Paiute ways and spoke

both languages fluently. He freely passed on that knowledge to future generations.

With heavy hearts, we say goodbye to Ted Howard, who was heartwarming and fittingly described by his stepson Phil Gover as chief, teacher, healer, leader, mentor, guardian, friend, outdoorsman, cowboy, pilot, and soldier. We extend our deep condolences to Ted's wife Gina, his children, stepchildren, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, other loved ones and the many friends he made throughout his life. We also join the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes in mourning the loss of one of their great leaders. We will miss him greatly and have utmost respect for the lasting legacy he has left through his thoughtful work on all of our behalves.●

#### RECOGNIZING AGRI-INDUSTRIAL PLASTICS COMPANY

● Ms. ERNST. Madam 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 Agri-Industrial Plastics Company of Fairfield, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

In 1978, Dick Smith founded Agri-Industrial Plastics Company in Fairfield, IA. After graduating from the University of Iowa with degrees in industrial and mechanical engineering, Dick set his sights on becoming an entrepreneur, and, along with four employees and a single machine, he began to break into the agriculture industry. Because of his unique experience and engineering perspective, the company was able to specialize in items such as baby pig feeders and farm drains. In the early years, Dick worked closely with trade leaders to enhance the plastic blow molding process in response to the development of new machines and materials to stay ahead of industry trends.

Over the years, Agri-Industrial Plastics has built a reputation for its capabilities in plastic blow molding, serving industries from agriculture to medical equipment. Due to the business's rapid growth, Dick knew the next step was acquiring a larger facility to reach their potential. In 2015, he built a 104,000-square-foot-space addition. Today, the company is a proud employer of over 200 people still operating in the same building they started in over 45 years ago.

Agri-Industrial Plastics emphasizes sustainability and does their best to conserve resources by investing in future solutions. In 2004, Agri-Industrial Plastics became the first nonautomotive custom blow molder to invest in technology capable of producing EPA-compliant fuel tanks, demonstrating the company's commitment to sustainability. They also installed a full solar roof in 2019, along with a

Tesla battery system, marking the first successful solar project in the Midwest. All these initiatives have cut carbon emissions by over 10,000 tons, which is equivalent to planting over 264,000 trees.

After years of running the company, Dick stepped down as president, giving way for his daughter Lori Shaefer-Weaton to take the reins. However, Dick continued his involvement by becoming chairman of the board. Lori leads by example and works hard to inspire the next generation. The Manufacturing Institute selected her for a 2021 STEP Ahead Award that recognizes women who have exhibited excellence and leadership throughout their careers. In 2023, Lori was named the Fairfield Chamber's Outstanding Citizen of the Year. Lori also chairs the Iowa Association of Business and Industry Foundation and recently joined the board of Iowa State's Center for Industrial Research and Service.

Agri-Industrial Plastics Company plays an active role in the Fairfield community and throughout Iowa by partnering with colleges and universities across the State to provide students with training to obtain professional skills. In addition, the company contributed to the Cambridge Little Achievers Center, the Lord's Cupboard Women's Crisis Center, and the Jefferson County Kids Childcare Center.

Agri-Industrial Plastics Company's commitment to giving back and providing high-quality products and services is outstanding. I want to congratulate Dick, Lori, and the entire team at Agri-Industrial Plastics Company for their continued dedication to excellence in the agriculture industry and cultivating the next generation. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success in Iowa.●

#### RECOGNIZING TRISTATE CURLS

● Ms. ERNST. Madam 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 Tristate Curls of Sibley, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Megan Gerken founded Tristate Curls in 2018 as a specialty salon to serve clients with curly and wavy hair. During her professional salon training, Megan worked in various hair salons in her home State of Minnesota, where she is a licensed cosmetologist. She graduated from the Stewart Cosmetology School in Sioux Falls and has gone to Los Angeles, New York City, and Dallas for short-term trainings to develop techniques to work on curly hair. After working in Minneapolis for 5 years, Megan and her husband moved to Sibley, IA, where she opened her own hair salon.

Tristate Curls started in a rented space in Sibley before Megan purchased

a shop on 9th Street in 2020. Currently, she is the salon's lone stylist, but that doesn't stop her from bringing her passion and dedication to work every day. She ensures every client that walks into Tristate Curls doesn't leave until they are happy with their new hair style. She also makes an effort to explain the products she uses so her customers can recreate the same style at home. Megan is committed to sharing her wealth of knowledge with the next generation of hair stylists and doesn't shy away from giving tips and advice.

In addition to running Tristate Curls, Megan works on the family farm with her husband and helps raise their cattle. Tristate Curls is an active member of the Sibley Chamber of Commerce and, in 2024, celebrated its sixth business anniversary.

Tristate Curls' commitment to providing quality, specialized care for curly and wavy hair in Sibley, IA, is commendable. I want to congratulate Megan Gerken, the Gerken family, and Tristate Curls for their continued dedication to providing beauty care to the Osceola County community. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success in Iowa.●

#### TRIBUTE TO SETH McMASTER

● Mr. ROUNDS. Madam President, today I recognize Seth McMaster, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all the hard work he has done on behalf of my office and the State of South Dakota. Mr. McMaster is a graduate of O'Gorman High School in Sioux Falls, SD. Currently, he is attending Arizona State University, where he studies business law and business public policy and public service. Mr. McMaster is a dedicated and diligent individual who has been devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience. He has been a true asset to my office. I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Mr. McMaster for all of the work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

#### TRIBUTE TO GRIFFIN PETERSEN

● Mr. ROUNDS. Madam President, today I recognize Griffin Petersen, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all the hard work he has done on behalf of my office and the State of South Dakota. Mr. PETERSEN is a graduate of Sully Buttes High School in Onida, SD. Currently, he is attending the University of South Dakota, where he studies political science and criminal justice. Mr. PETERSEN is a dedicated and diligent individual who has been devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience. He has been a true asset to my office. I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Mr. PETERSEN for all of the work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

#### TRIBUTE TO LILY SNEESBY

● Mr. ROUNDS. Madam President, today I recognize Lily Sneesby, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all the hard work she has done on behalf of my office and the State of South Dakota. Ms. Sneesby is a graduate of Spearfish High School in Spearfish, SD. Currently, she is attending Pace University NYC, where she studies business management and finance. Ms. Sneesby is a dedicated and diligent individual who has been devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience. She has been a true asset to my office. I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Ms. Sneesby for all of the work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

#### TRIBUTE TO ELLA WATERWORTH

● Mr. ROUNDS. Madam President, today I recognize Ella Waterworth, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all the hard work she has done on behalf of my office and the State of South Dakota. Ms. Waterworth is a graduate of St. Croix Falls High School in St. Croix Falls, WI. Currently, she is attending South Dakota State University, where she studies communications, political science, and public relations. Ms. Waterworth is a dedicated and diligent individual who has been devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience. She has been a true asset to my office. I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Ms. Waterworth for all of the work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

#### REMEMBERING LOGAN CHARLES STRYKER

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Madam President, I rise to honor the life of Logan Charles Stryker who passed away on July 13, 2024, at just 10 years old. In October 2022, Logan was diagnosed with a rare form of bone cancer. Following his diagnosis, Logan showed amazing courage and was a wonderful philanthropist in southwest Florida, raising an incredible amount of money to help others in his community. In 2023, he was named the Outstanding Philanthropic Youth in southwest Florida after raising over \$30,000 for Golisano's Children Hospital. Logan also raised a significant amount of money for "Barbara's Friends," the hospital's pediatric cancer fund. This work to help other children with cancer is an incredible mission that will inspire all who read his story. While his time on this Earth was far too short, the power of Logan's generosity and selfless work to help others will undoubtedly benefit and positively influence others for many years to come. Logan Charles Stryker was a resident of Estero, FL, and is survived by his parents Scott and Rachel Stryker, and his younger brother Griffin.

#### TRIBUTE TO PATRICK FITZPATRICK

● Mr. TESTER. Madam President, today I would like to honor the career and service of a distinguished Montanan and U.S. Navy veteran, Captain Patrick J. Fitzpatrick.

Captain Fitzpatrick has faithfully served our country in the Navy for 33 years, including serving 25 of those years on Active Duty. And after three deployments, two tours overseas, and being stationed across multiple States, Captain Fitzpatrick is retiring from military service and finally returning home to Montana.

A native son of the Treasure State, Captain Fitzpatrick was raised in Missoula. He is the second generation of a three-generation Navy family and worked as a cabinet installer in western Montana before answering the call to duty and enlisting as a SEABEE in the Naval Reserve in 1992. Not long after, he was commissioned as a Reserve nurse corps officer in 1998 and soon transferred to Active Duty in 2000.

Captain Fitzpatrick began his Active-Duty career serving as an emergency/trauma registered nurse at Naval Hospital Bremerton in Washington State. From there, he went on to serve at the U.S. Naval Hospital in Naples, Italy, before attending the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston. He then served as an emergency clinical nurse specialist and emergency nurse practitioner at the Naval Hospital in Jacksonville, FL, where he was instrumental in helping implement their flu clinic during the 2009 flu pandemic.

After Jacksonville, Captain Fitzpatrick was deployed to the Joint Forces Role-III hospital at Bastion in Helmand, Afghanistan, where he served as a trauma coordinator for the Joint Theater Trauma System and participated in wartime trauma research. He was then transferred to U.S. Naval Hospital in Guam to serve as the command's transition coordinator. There, he oversaw the final design and outfitting of a multimillion-dollar state-of-the-art replacement hospital, all while ensuring hospital services did not lapse.

Captain Fitzpatrick deployed once again as a surgical care coordinator to the USNS *Comfort* as part of Continuing Promises 2015, a humanitarian mission to 11 countries in South and Central America. When he returned home, he then served as the associate director of medical services at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth Virginia before becoming the executive officer of Naval Health Clinic Cherry Point, NC. In August 2021, he returned to the place his Active-Duty career began, Navy Hospital Bremerton, to serve as the commanding officer and director of the Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Command and hospital.

In recognition of his incredible service and career, Captain Fitzpatrick has received the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal,