

As the leader of one of Frankfort's most powerful lobbying groups, making a big difference is certainly something Watts knows a thing or two about. She was just 37-years-old in 2019 when she was named the Kentucky Chamber's president and CEO. Recently, she was appointed as the first female chair of the U.S. Chamber's "Committee of 100", which is the top 100 chamber leaders throughout the United States.

One of the first things Watts did as the Chamber's leader was to form the annual Women's Summit, an event celebrating Kentucky women who have found success on the state and national stage. Former Kentucky Gov. Martha Layne Collins, former U.N. Ambassador Kelly Craft, former Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao, and Lt. Gov. Jacqueline Coleman are among the women who have been honored at the summit.

"We really want to just give voice to these women that are doing really remarkable things and making Kentucky shine," said Watts.

Watts also wants her eight-year-old son and 11-year-old daughter to see women can do remarkable things. After applying for the job during her maternity leave, Watts started working at the Chamber of Commerce when her daughter was just six weeks old. Instead of finding a work-life balance, she likes to think of it as "work-life integration."

"I do think it's really important, especially for my daughter, who's almost 12-years-old, to see that her mom can do really kind of big and really important things and still be a mom, and still host the sleepovers, and still take her to the carpool, and fix her hair for school dances—and then the next day I can be in Washington D.C. testifying," said Watts. "I think seeing that nice balance is really important for young women. So I'm hoping that I am a role model for my daughter."

Watts, who serves on the board of directors for Campbellsville University and as chair of the academic committee for her alma mater, believes it's especially important for leaders to give back to their communities and to their state, adding that it's what makes someone a well-rounded professional.

"I give [Campbellsville] a lot of credit for really making me who I am today. Giving me the kind of the strength that I needed and the education I needed to tackle this career," said Watts. "It's a really important way for me to give back to a university that has given back so much to me."

Watts also serves on boards for Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky, University of Kentucky College of Public Health, University of Louisville President's Advisory Council, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, National Association of State Chambers, and the American Chamber of Commerce Executives, where she was also named a 40 under 40 in 2020.

Watts attributes her own success to being present, intentional. She encourages young professionals to be cautious of the complacency that can come with virtual or hybrid work settings where they may not see their colleagues face-to-face.

"I do think it's really important for young people in particular to be present, be seen, be visible because sometimes if you're out of sight, you're a little bit out of mind and for me I really do think one of the keys to my success was that I was always here. I was always around if someone needed something or if I needed to go to a meeting," Watts said. "When you look around and see some offices that are empty or people working from home, sometimes that camaraderie and that relationship is not going to get built, so you really have to be intentional."

As a trailblazing leader and a major power broker for Kentucky businesses, Watts has created a career built on relationships and

trust—her presence and thoughtful intentionality guiding her to the top.

#### KIDS ONLINE SAFETY ACT

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, after months of negotiations, the Kids Online Safety Act, KOSA, has been improved, thanks to hard work by Commerce Chair CANTWELL and Leader SCHUMER. The changes that I, LGBTQ+ advocates, parents, student activists, civil rights groups and others have fought for over the last 2 years have made it less likely that the bill can be used as a tool for MAGA extremists to wage war on legal and essential information to teens. I want to take a moment to thank all of the advocates, parents, young people, and concerned citizens that have raised their views about KOSA with me, both in support of the bill and with concern about its implications.

Let me be clear, I strongly support elements of this bill, especially Senator MARKEY's Children and Teens' Online Privacy Protection Act, which will safeguard the personal information of young people online. Provisions regulating addictive design elements used by platforms to keep young people hooked are valuable safeguards that will make tech products safer. Unfortunately, KOSA's improvements, while constructive, remain insufficient. I fear this bill could be used to sue services that offer privacy-enhancing technologies like encryption or anonymity features that are essential to young people's ability to communicate securely and privately without being spied on by predators online. I also take seriously concerns voiced by the American Civil Liberties Union, Fight for the Future, and LGBTQ+ teens and advocates that a future MAGA administration could still use this bill to pressure companies to censor gay, trans, and reproductive health information.

For these reasons, I cannot vote for this legislation. However, if this bill is signed into law by the President, I look forward to working with my colleagues to conduct rigorous oversight of the FTC to ensure that my worst fears about this bill do not come true and that kids benefit from a safer internet.

Whatever happens to this bill, I look forward to working with my colleagues on other initiatives, including regulating harmful and manipulative platform designs, to tackle the vital topic of kids' safety online. I also remain convinced that this effort must go hand-in-hand with passing a strong baseline privacy law for all Americans.

#### TRIBUTE TO ALAN BAKER

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, August 7 marks the 95th birthday of Maine's Alan Baker, a truly remarkable journalist, community leader, and public servant. It will be a pleasure to join Alan's friends and family in celebrating a remarkable life of adven-

tures, accomplishments, and lasting contributions.

Alan's commitment to service began when he was growing up in Orrington, ME, during World War II. Spending more than 250 4-hour shifts in a tower above the town office to spot enemy aircraft targeting the vital Dow Army Airfield in nearby Bangor taught him the importance of individuals stepping forward in times of need.

After graduating from Bowdoin College in 1951, Alan launched a long and successful international career in publishing. He brought his work ethic, vision, and experience back to Maine in 1986 and joined the staff of the legendary Ellsworth American, one of the oldest newspapers in Maine. He purchased that newspaper 2 years later and later founded the Mount Desert Islander. Under his leadership, those two publications demonstrated the value of community newspapers by keeping readers informed and helping them to become involved citizens.

Alan was recognized with many industry awards over the course of his career, including the National Newspaper Association's James O. Amos Award for outstanding achievements in community journalism. In addition to being named Maine Journalist of the Year, he is a member of the Maine Press Association Hall of Fame.

Throughout his life, Alan led by example to encourage civic engagement. Following in his mother's footsteps, who served seven terms in the Maine State House, Alan ran for and won a seat as a citizen lawmaker in order to do his part and to better understand the legislative process. Despite his busy professional life, he has served his hometown on many community boards, from historic preservation to cemetery upkeep, and was named Orrington's Citizen of Year in 2017.

The remote island communities of Downeast Maine are beautiful yet challenging places to live. One of Alan's most significant contributions has been his strong and generous support for the work of the Maine Seacoast Mission. Founded in 1905, the non-denominational, nonprofit organization began delivering a minister to isolated communities where there were no churches and books where there were no libraries via a sloop called *Hope*. Today, the Mission's motor vessel *Sunbeam V* carries on that work and also serves as a mobile health clinic, bringing medical services to four islands. In 2017, the Mission presented Alan with its Sunbeam Award for his steadfast commitment to the island and coastal communities of rural Maine.

Alan Baker is an extraordinary journalist, a treasured friend, and a true asset to the State of Maine. May his birthday and the days to come be filled with joy.

#### TRIBUTE TO DR. TIMOTHY DONOHUE

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Timothy

Donohue for his accomplishments as a scientist over the past 40 years. I am honored to recognize this momentous milestone and Dr. Donohue's numerous contributions to science.

Dr. Donohue began his path with a bachelors of life sciences from the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn in 1975, followed by a master's in microbiology from Pennsylvania State University in 1977, before receiving his Ph.D. in microbiology from Pennsylvania State University in 1980.

In 1986, Dr. Donohue began as an assistant professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of Bacteriology. He rose to associate professor in 1991 and full professor in 1996. During this time, he has come to be an internationally recognized expert on bio- and genome-based conversion of renewable resources into valuable products. His research focuses on microbial metabolic and regulatory pathways, genomic and systems biology, and the strategies that microbes use to grow and generate chemicals and alternative fuels from renewable resources.

Currently, Dr. Donohue serves as the director of the Wisconsin Energy Institute and is the Ira L. Baldwin Professor of Bacteriology and the UW Foundation's Fetzer-Bascom Professor.

During his tenure, Dr. Donohue has earned countless achievements. He is the past president and secretary of the American Society of Microbiology, an honorary fellow at the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Academy of Microbiology, and recipient of the 2018 Promega Biotechnology research award given by the American Academy of Microbiology. He has also served on numerous Federal and international advisory panels and led federally funded graduate training programs.

Since 2007, Dr. Donohue has also served as the principal investigator and director of the Great Lakes Bioenergy, a U.S. Department of Energy funded Bioenergy Research Center led by the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The center conducts pioneering research that develops sustainable biofuels and bioproducts made from crops with the goal of creating biofuels and bioproducts that are economically viable and environmentally sustainable. The center's renewable fuel and chemicals research has trained over 1,000 scientists and engineers, made advancements in over 250 patent applications and 100 licensed technologies, and provided the scientific underpinnings for five start-up companies.

Dr. Donohue's continued work in this vital field and dedication to research and education will continue to make a positive impact for many years to come, and I am proud to recognize his lifelong commitment to the pursuit of science and discovery.

#### TRIBUTE TO TYLER COOPER

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to

express my appreciation to Tyler for his hard work as an intern in my office in Casper, WY. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Tyler is a native of Casper. He attends Casper College, where he studies political science. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Tyler for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his journey.

#### TRIBUTE TO PHILIP ELLIS

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, at the 112th Wyoming State Fair, Senator LUMMIS and I will have the pleasure of introducing Philip Ellis as a 2024 inductee into the Wyoming Agriculture Hall of Fame.

Philip Ellis is a fifth-generation rancher. He grew up near Chugwater, where he developed a passion for agriculture at a young age. Philip is a University of Wyoming graduate and the current owner and operator of the Marsh and Ellis Ranch.

Ellis has spent most of his life serving the Wyoming ag industry and his community. He had an extensive career in banking, as a young ag lender in Cheyenne and later as the board chairman of the Oregon Trail Bank in Guernsey. While in agricultural lending, Ellis learned how to manage multiple projects and build relationships. This helped him excel in State level agricultural leadership roles.

He has a long history of involvement in organizations supporting the beef industry. Over the years, he has advocated for the agricultural industry. He did this while serving on several policy committees and holding various State and national positions along the way. He continued to advance his leadership in roles at the Wyoming Stock Growers Association, where he served as president from 2003 to 2005. Ellis also served on the National Cattlemen's Beef Association board of directors and several policy committees.

In 2015, he rose to the position of president of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, where he served the beef industry on a national platform. In 2017, he received the Wyoming Stock Growers Association's Guardian of the Grasslands Award for his outstanding efforts in protecting the natural resources of Wyoming.

Philip's dedication and passion for the Wyoming agriculture and the beef industry makes him an outstanding choice for the Wyoming Agriculture Hall of Fame. It is a great honor to participate in Philip's induction. I congratulate Philip Ellis as a 2024 inductee into the Wyoming Hall of Fame.

#### 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PETROLEUM ASSOCIATION OF WYOMING

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Petroleum Association of Wyoming. On August 21 through 23, the Petroleum Association of Wyoming will celebrate 50 years of operation during its annual Rockies Petroleum Conference in Laramie, WY.

In 1910, Wyoming Governor B.B. Brooks sought to protect the State's oil industry and organized an oil convention. In 1921, The Rocky Mountain Oil and Gas Association was formed in Casper, WY, to advocate for oil-based trade and production in the Rocky Mountain States. Governor Brooks served as the first president, along with volunteer Secretary-Treasurer George Jarvis. In 1945, President Paul Stock was elected president.

In 1974, the Rocky Mountain Oil and Gas Association's Wyoming division office and the Wyoming Oil Industry Committee joined forces to form the Petroleum Association of Wyoming. Wyoming's oil history dates back to 1832 when fur trader Capt. B. L. E. Bonneville traveled to the Wind River Valley. He found oil springs southeast of present-day Lander. The State's first oil well would be drilled there five decades later by Pennsylvania oilfield explorer Mike Murphy. Murphy sold mainly to the Union Pacific railroad, where the oil was used as a lubricant for railcar axles, and to tanners in Utah.

Wyoming's first oil refinery was built in Casper by the Pennsylvania Oil and Gas Company in 1895. It was located east of Center Street, near the Chicago and North Western railroad tracks. The refinery produced 100 barrels of oil per day. Several more refineries opened around the State in the decades following. By 1920, there were 16 refineries in Wyoming. Total production capacity was 88,000 barrels of crude oil per day. Today, four operating refineries are located in Casper, Sinclair, Evanston, and Newcastle. They have the capacity to refine 125,850 barrels per day. In 2023, Wyoming ranked eighth nationally in crude oil production with 96.8 million barrels. At its height in 2022, Wyoming had 27,951 producing oil and gas wells. Today, nearly 55 percent of Wyoming's surface lands are owned by the Federal or State government. Federal lands issues are a top priority for the Petroleum Association. The organization advocates for multiple uses for the safe and sustainable development of oil and gas resources. It works to educate landowners on their rights and responsibilities concerning mineral development.

In 2021, Wyoming's petroleum industry employed over 20,000 people with an annual payroll of \$3.6 billion plus. Oil and gas producers paid \$2.42 billion in taxes in 2023. This helps to fund numerous areas, including education, public infrastructure, and local governments. Today's association members range