

not just Congress but the American people. Accordingly, it is critically important that all Federal Agencies promote openness and transparency. They must also ensure Federal employees know their rights to blow the whistle on wrongdoing, including to Congress.

That is why I have fought hard to ensure Federal Agencies include the anti-gag provision as required by law. That provision is a notice to employees of their rights to disclose waste, fraud, abuse, and misconduct to Congress, an inspector general, and the Office of Special Counsel.

For example, the ATF failed to include this notification in guidance sent to their employees. I demanded they issue updated guidance, which they subsequently did. Further, in March of this year, I wrote to all 74 inspectors general requesting they conduct a review of their Agency's nondisclosure policy, forms, and similar agreements to ensure it includes the anti-gag provision as required by law.

The task of supporting whistleblowers doesn't start and stop on Whistleblower Appreciation Day. It is a full time, year-round job. Last year, I talked about the legislation I have introduced this Congress to do just that, from the Securities and Exchange Commission Whistleblower Reform Act to the False Claims Amendment Act to the IRS Whistleblower Program Improvement Act and others.

Whistleblowers are brave men and women who perform an invaluable public service. Whistleblowers must be protected; they are patriots. Dating back to the Revolutionary War, the first whistleblowers reported fraud and misconduct. Our Founding Fathers knew the importance of rooting out fraud, waste, and abuse.

As I stand here today in July 2024—a long way's away from the Revolutionary War—the same sentiment remains. I am proud to have introduced the National Whistleblower Appreciation Day resolution for the 11th year in a row on behalf of the entire Senate Whistleblower Protection Caucus.

And I will tell you this again:

One day, all of us together, we are going to get that Rose Garden ceremony.

SPRING 2024 PUBLIC SERVICE REVIEW

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I encourage all Americans to read the newly published Spring 2024 edition of Public Service Review. The Review is the quarterly publication of the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service, an exemplary organization, which I am honored to support as a member of its Board of Trustees. In the Public Service Review, readers can explore work from students, faculty, and leadership of Brandeis University's Educational Network for Active Civic Transformation (ENACT) Program. That initiative shares the Stennis Center's mission: encouraging students to pursue careers in public service.

We are thrilled to publish writing and interviews by undergraduate students. In the pages of this issue, readers will find work from Julian Ober of the University of Maine, Vishni Samaraweera of Georgetown University, and Tomas Cruz Villalvazo of the University of Utah. They were joined by a number of Brandeis students, including Elaina Pevide, Ravi Simon, Dalia Moran, and Arianna Jackson, who all submitted thoughtful pieces.

The Assistant Director of ENACT, David J. Weinstein, also contributed, as did Lynne Chandler Garcia of the U.S. Air Force Academy. This edition also features interviews with State Representative Ambureen Rana of Maine and State Senator Becca Rausch of Massachusetts.

These students and leaders showcase the incredible work of the ENACT program, and they encourage those who serve in communities nationwide. It is our hope that they will also inspire others to lives of service. On behalf of my fellow Board members, U.S. Senator CHRIS COONS, Mr. Tom Daffron, U.S. Representatives TRENT KELLY and TERRI SEWELL, and Mike Sommers, I urge all audiences to visit www.stennis.gov to read the Spring 2024 issue of Public Service Review.

REMEMBERING SHERIFF JOHN PLASSE

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life and career of a true hero, Sheriff John Plasse.

For four decades, Sheriff Plasse lived to serve and protect his community and his country. He died on Wednesday, July 24, after a battle with cancer. Sheriff Plasse served in law enforcement in Terre Haute and Vigo County since 1985. He served 33 years in the Terre Haute Police Department, including 11 as chief of police, before retiring from the department in 2018. But he was not done working to keep his community safe. In 2018, he was elected Vigo County Sheriff, a position he held until his passing.

Sheriff Plasse also served 34 years in the Indiana Army National Guard. He rose to the rank of sergeant major with the 38th Infantry Division before retiring in November 2017. He was a veteran of the War in Afghanistan and, among his many commendations, awarded a Bronze Star.

While his military and law enforcement careers are impressive, he was also beloved in Terre Haute for his selfless service in the community. He served on numerous boards and volunteered for countless charitable organizations including the Boys and Girls Club, the United Way of Central Indiana, the Hamilton Center, the Special Olympics, and the Muscular Dystrophy Association, to name just a few.

Sheriff Plasse is survived by his wife Julie, three children, and three grandchildren. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and the countless individuals whose lives were changed as a result of his service.

It is my honor to recognize Sheriff John Plasse for his life of service.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN R. ALLEN

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Maryland resident John R. Allen as he retires from Federal service after 20 years in the Marine Corps and 20 years at the Peace Corps.

Mr. Allen served as the Chief of the Global Crime Response and Analysis Unit for the Peace Corps, a U.S. Government Agency that sends American Volunteers to serve alongside host communities in roughly 60 countries around the world. John was a key adviser to multiple Directors of the Peace Corps on all areas of the Agency's global safety and security program. Throughout his 20 years with the Agency, he traveled extensively representing Peace Corps and directly supporting Volunteers in Africa and Latin America.

Mr. Allen joined the Peace Corps after retiring from the Marine Corps, where he served honorably at home and abroad as a senior noncommissioned officer. He has remained active in the veterans community as the leadership liaison for the Peace Corps' Veterans Employee Resource Group. He was also an active member of the Interagency Veterans Advisory Council (IVAC), comprised of Active-Duty and veteran representatives of approximately 100 departments and Agencies, which proudly supports the recruitment, acclimation, retention, and promotion of veterans, Reservists, National Guard personnel, and military spouses in the Federal civilian workforce. Collectively, IVAC advocates for the interests of over 500,000 veteran civilian employees.

Mr. Allen has a BA in psychology from the University of South Carolina and an MS in management from Troy University. He completed the Key Executive Leadership Program at American University and is currently working on his dissertation for the doctor in ministry degree at Denver Seminary. John resides in Urbana, MD, with his wife Susan. They are the proud parents to two adult sons, a daughter-in-law, and two rambunctious grandboys Miles John and Austin David.

I am honored to represent such an exemplary civil servant and military veteran. Please join me in congratulating John R. Allen for his Federal service, his contributions to the Peace Corps and the Marine Corps, and the larger U.S. veteran and national service community and in wishing him well as he transitions into his new position at the U.S. Institute of Peace.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING TRUENORTH STEEL

• Mr. CRAMER. Mr. President, it is my honor to recognize one of North Dakota's legacy businesses celebrating 80

years of excellence next month in Fargo.

TrueNorth Steel began as Fargo Tank Company by a Norwegian immigrant named Ole Rommesmo. Upon coming to America, he worked as a lumberjack in Minnesota before learning the trade of welding at a steel tank plant in Minneapolis. He moved to Fargo as a welder for the Fargo Foundry Company and tried unsuccessfully four times to start his own business before finally succeeding. During World War II, he worked in northern Canada for the United States military as a welder and construction foreman for an airbase.

It was after the war in 1945 when Fargo Tank Company began, and the business has been going strong ever since. Reflecting Ole's values and principles of integrity, humility, commitment and knowledge, it has added products and services that now reach around the world. He died in 1990, and his son, Ole Rommesmo, Jr., took over the business.

In 2011, the company's seven steel businesses merged to become TrueNorth Steel. Today, it serves many industries, including agricultural, construction, mining, road building, energy, and others on projects at power plants, refineries, golf courses, hospitals, fire stations, airports, stadiums, schools and universities, government, apartment and commercial buildings, wind farms, coal mines, river watersheds, water treatment plants, aquariums—and more.

I congratulate the Rommesmo family for 80 years of providing steel solutions. TrueNorth Steel is testament to the importance of family-owned businesses across the Nation, and the impact bold entrepreneurs have had on our American economy. To my friends at TrueNorth Steel, you have enhanced the quality of life we treasure in our region and have set a very high bar for being a dedicated community partner at your locations across North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, and Montana. Thank you for all you have done to build the foundations of industry and infrastructure across our Nation. I hope you will thrive for many years to come. Happy Birthday, TrueNorth Steel.●

RECOGNIZING L.R. FALK CONSTRUCTION CO.

● 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 L.R. Falk Construction Co. of St. Ansgar, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

In 1922, LaVerne Falk founded L.R. Falk Construction Company. With just a Ford Model T and a shovel, LaVerne established a hauling business, moving items between Chicago and Iowa. La-

Verne recognized the untapped potential of the transportation industry and, over time, expanded the company to encompass more services. By the late 1930s, the company acquired its first rock quarry in St. Ansgar, IA. Now, L.R. Falk Construction hauls everything from large vehicles to agricultural materials.

In 1970, LaVerne's son David Falk became president of L.R. Falk Construction. Under his 40 years of leadership, the company grew to 35 employees, expanded operations to seven quarries, and achieved sustainable growth across the State of Iowa. For over 50 years, the company's main office stayed on St. Ansgar's Main Street. In 2009, L.R. Falk Construction moved its office but remained in the community. In 2010, David stepped down from leadership, and his son Lindsey Falk assumed the role of president of the company.

Over its 102-year history, L.R. Falk Construction has consistently developed and diversified its products and services. Today, Lindsey Falk, the third-generation owner-operator, leads a team of over 60 full-time employees across nine quarries and three sand pits. The company has expanded its offerings to include custom crushing and products such as concrete stone, landscaping materials, and agricultural lime. In 2018, Lindsey founded Saint Stone, a subsidiary of L.R. Falk Construction that repurposes excess stone into marketable products that ships products nationwide.

L.R. Falk Construction Company plays an active role in the St. Ansgar community, organizing events such as the Quarry 5K Run to benefit the Clausen Park Renovation Project. The company also established the ROCK Foundation, a nonprofit charitable organization which supports local projects ranging from organizing starting a local food bank to financing mental health professionals in local schools. Lindsey also acquired the Enterprise Journal, the local Mitchell County newspaper. He hopes that it would stay local and continue to serve as a community resource for Mitchell County residents, as it has done since 1861.

In September of 2022, the North Iowa Area Community College Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center and the Iowa Small Business Development Center honored L.R. Falk Construction Co. with the Entrepreneur of the Month Award. Additionally, the Limestone Producers Association presented the company with the Good Neighbor Award several times. The Falk family has embedded their life into the great State of Iowa, and all three generations have served as president of the Iowa Limestone Association, marking a first in the organization's history.

L.R. Falk Construction's commitment to providing quality services and products in St. Ansgar, IA, is evident. I want to congratulate the entire Falk family for building such an incredible family-owned and operated business that continues to serve Iowans and be-

yond. I am eager to see how the company continues to expand and reach new heights of success.●

TRIBUTE TO LOU D'ALLESANDRO

● Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize State Senator Lou D'Alessandro for his decades of public service and advocacy on behalf of his fellow Granite Staters. Senator D'Allesandro—Lou as many of us call him—has been dedicated to constituent service for more than 50 years and has represented New Hampshire's District 20 in the New Hampshire State Senate for 13 consecutive terms. He leaves a legacy of fairness, determination, and genuine care for his constituents. Lou's exemplary years in New Hampshire government will be fondly remembered by communities across the State and by his colleagues in Concord.

Born and raised in Boston, MA, Lou studied at Worcester Academy before attending the University of New Hampshire. He was not only a focused and diligent student, but also a player on the UNH football team and cocaptain his senior season. He also played 2 years of lacrosse and a year of baseball for the Wildcats. In 1963, shortly after graduating from UNH, Lou served as the first athletic director and as a basketball coach at Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU). Lou was inducted into the SNHU Penmen Hall of Fame in 1970 after his team won three consecutive conference titles. A year later, he would continue his educational path by earning his M.Ed. from Rivier University. Lou's academic persistence, extracurricular achievements, and impressive career were an early indicator of his leadership skills and compassionate team-player mentality—all attributes that would guide his transition into public service.

Lou first ran for a seat in New Hampshire's House of Representatives in 1973, and his career in public office blossomed from there. He served two terms in the house and three terms on the New Hampshire Executive Council. In 1998, Lou began his quarter-century long run as a State senator representing District 20. During his time in office, Lou chaired the finance and capital budget committees and was a member of the administrative rules committee. This term, he also served as vice chair of the ways and means committee.

Legislatively, Lou has worked tirelessly to listen to his constituents' values and reflect them in his extensive voting record. With a keen focus on the future, Lou concentrated much of his legislative attention on education and supporting New Hampshire's students. He has sponsored bills ranging from increasing access to free and reduced-priced school lunches to breaking the barriers to higher education. He has prioritized access to early-learning opportunities for young children, noting the importance of public education in